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ACT AMENDED

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Radha and Shafali star in India's win

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NEARBY

Another snag hits Purple Line

BENGALURU
Days after a major disruption on the Purple Line, another technical snag affected services on Thursday when a train developed a fault at the Cubbon Park station. » PAGE 4

Recruitment drive set to kickstart

BENGALURU
The State government has enhanced the number of posts for recruitment to 72,186 from 56,432 announced earlier. It has also sought completion of the recruitment process, including handing over of appointment order, within the next six months. » PAGE 10

METROPLUS » PAGE 9

188 dead, 1,500 injured as earthquakes hit Venezuela

'Doublet earthquake', with an initial 7.2 magnitude tremor closely followed by a stronger 7.5 one, wreaks havoc in the South American country; tremors felt in neighbouring Colombia and Brazil

Agence France-Presse
LA GUAIRA

A pair of powerful earthquakes that rocked Venezuela have killed at least 188 people and left more than 1,500 hurt, officials said on Thursday as residents searched for loved ones trapped under rubble after many buildings were flattened within minutes.

An international outpouring of aid quickly followed the tremors on Wednesday evening, which the United States Geological Survey (USGS) measured as magnitude 7.2 and 7.5, centred west of the capital Caracas. Tremors from the earthquakes were also felt in neighbouring Colombia and Brazil.

Interim President Delcy Rodriguez said that intense rescue efforts were going on, noting that the State of La Guaira was hit hard.

Lost in seconds: A woman holds a boy near a collapsed building in Caracas, Venezuela, on Thursday following the earthquakes. AFP

"Dozens of buildings have collapsed, and we are currently carrying out very intense rescue efforts to save as many lives as God allows us to save," Ms. Rodriguez said on state television on Thursday. "La Guaira State is a true tragedy, and has become a disaster zone."

The first earthquake, with an epicentre 21 kilometres west of the coastal town of Moron, occurred at 6.04 p.m. local time on Wednesday, the USGS said. Within a minute, a 7.5-magnitude earthquake struck about 45 kilometres away. They struck at depths of 22 kilometres and 10 kilometres, respectively.

Scores of rescuers from the U.S. and several European countries and UN specialists were on their way to help search for survivors, Ms. Rodriguez said while nations including China, India, Brazil, and war-battered Iran offered help. However, threatening to complicate the relief effort, the international airport near Caracas was closed due to "serious damage," Ms. Rodriguez said, with social media videos showing the terminal's ceiling collapsing over panicked travellers.

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3 States close ranks on Tungabhadra basin

Joining hands: Chief Ministers D.K. Shivakumar, N. Chandrababu Naidu, and A. Revanth Reddy share a stage on Thursday. ANI

Kumar Buradikatti
KALABURAGI

Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana on Thursday signalled a "historic" consensus on protecting the interests of farmers in the Tungabhadra basin and pursuing long-term solutions to irrigation and water-sharing issues.

At an event organised by the Karnataka government and the Tungabhadra Board in Koppal district to mark the inauguration of the newly installed 33 spillway gates of the reservoir in Vijayanagara, Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and his Telangana and Andhra Pradesh counterparts, A. Revanth Reddy and N. Chandrababu Naidu, stressed the need for cooperation in addressing the concerns of lakhs of farmers dependent on the inter-State project.

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Govt. restores commercial LPG supply to pre-war level

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday restored the supply of industrial and commercial liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to pre-war levels and withdrew all sector-specific allocation caps that had been imposed at the peak of the West Asia crisis, citing an improved supply situation.

In addition to this, bulk LPG consumers will be allotted 50% of their pre-crisis consumption requirements. Supplies had been suspended at the onset of the crisis. The government also eased its earlier direction mandating that propane and butane – used in other sectors as well – be only used for domestic LPG production.

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TRANSIT ROUTE DISPUTE » PAGE 17

The European sojourn — a sneak peek into India's T20 roadmap

In normal course, a contest against Ireland would fly under the radar, but this clearly isn't normal course. The winds of change in the set-up has added interest in the upcoming tours with Sooryavanshi hogging the limelight

BCCI

R. Kaushik

Not even a week since they completed a commanding sweep over Afghanistan, India's cricketers are on the cusp of another adventure which will eventually take them to the land where they first shook up the world over 43 years back.

On 25 June 1983, at the same venue where they played their first Test 51 years previously - eerily coincidentally, that game, against England, also started on June 25 - Kapil Dev's unfancied bunch defied odds of 66 to 1 to lift the (60-over) World Cup, with a stunning conquest of West Indies, the two-time defending champions. That momentous accomplishment changed the face of the sport in the world's most populous cricket-playing nation. It served as the catalyst for the winds of change that swept through the sport, and is inarguably primarily responsible for where Indian cricket is today.

A special ground

Lord's will remain a special ground for Indians, and not because it is touted as the headquarters of cricket. Their first Test, their first World Cup triumph, their extraordinary chase of England's 325 in the NatWest Trophy final in 2002... They will have to wait until the final day of their crisp outing of Ireland and England, on July 19, to refamiliarise themselves with the (in)famous slope at the world's most easily recognisable cricket ground. But one can rest assured that they won't be waiting with bated breath for that tryst.

It might appear somewhat incongruous that with the next global white-ball event being a 50-over competition (the World Cup in the Africas late next year), this trip entails seven T20 Internationals and just three one-dayers. But that's the nature of the commercial beast. The 50-over World Cup is still the most coveted limited-overs silverware, but outside of the World Cup (and maybe the Champions Trophy), the format doesn't attract the greatest eyeballs. Most bilateral ODIs are played in front of largely empty stands, though that won't be the case when Shubman Gill's side parades its wares in Birmingham and Cardiff before heading to Lord's for the final stop.

This crisp three-and-a-half-week sojourn will kick off in Belfast on Friday, with the first of two T20Is against hosts Ireland. By all accounts, this is a battle of unequals. India are both the defending T20 World Cup champions and the No. 1 side in the universe, while the Irish are a modest 12th. Expectedly, India have won all eight matches between the sides and the only time they were stretched was in August 2023, in Jasprit Bumrah's comeback to international cricket as captain of a largely second-string side. In a game badly hit by the weather, India eked out a two-run win on the DLS Method, though had the match gone the distance, they would have overhauled the home side's middling 139 for seven with greater authority and conviction.

In normal course, a contest against Ireland would fly under the radar, but this clearly isn't normal course. The man who led the team to the World Cup crown in March has been summarily dismissed, and India have a new T20I skipper. As if that wasn't dramatic enough, the person who has been tasked with overseeing the team's fortunes, potentially until the next T20 World Cup in October-November 2028, played the last of his 51 T20Is in December 2023. Wow, you say? Fact can sometimes still be stranger than fiction.

Suryakumar Yadav had already been the undisputed king of the 20-over game for a long time, and it therefore came as no surprise when he succeeded Rohit Sharma as the Indian captain when the latter retired from the format immediately after leading India to the World Cup title in Bridgetown two years back. Hardik Pandya had been Rohit's long-term deputy and widely touted to succeed the Mumbaikar, but a change of guard at the coaching helm with Gautam Gambhir replacing Rahul Dravid as the head coach perhaps triggered a change of heart too. The choice of Suryakumar as leader, however, was indisputable, and India embarked on a sensational charge under the inventive right-hander, culminating in them becoming the first three-time World Cup champions, as well as the first side to retain the title and emerge champions on home patch.

Plummeting returns

While the team touched dizzying heights, Suryakumar's individual fortunes went in the exact opposite direction. The same batter who couldn't put a foot wrong for well on three years - a massive time-frame in the most fickle of formats - could hardly do anything right with the bat from the tour of South Africa in November 2024. A run of no half-centuries in 23 innings spanning 13 months was a huge red flag, but Suryakumar seemed to have arrested the prolonged slump with efforts of 32, 82 not out, 57 not out and 63 against New Zealand in the fortnight leading up to the World Cup.

When he rescued India from a wobbly 77 for six against United States in their tournament opener with a typically flamboyant undefeated 84, there was no indication of what was in store. As his side progressed deep, overcoming the big loss to South Africa in their opening Super 8 encounter in Ahmedabad, Suryakumar's bat failed to catch fire. There were three 30s but he ended the World Cup with scores of 18, 11 and 0. As if that wasn't bad enough, he had a disastrous season with Mumbai Indians in IPL 2026, mustering an anaemic 270 runs in 13 innings to make it a lot easier for Ajit Agarkar's selection panel to crack the whip.

It's not often that the captain of a title-winning team is stripped of his authority for the very next match in the same format, but Agarkar has overseen two such instances. In India's first ODI since they stormed to the Champions Trophy in Dubai in March 2025, Rohit was replaced as captain by Gill with an eye on the future, though the former at least found a place in the squad and in the XI. This time around, the axe has fallen on not just Suryakumar the captain, but also the batter. It won't be a stretch to state that the 35-year-old has played his final international game. India are spoilt for choices when it comes to batting options throughout the order, and even if Suryakumar were to reclaim his mojo and make a bucketful of T20 runs for Mumbai in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and for his franchise in the next IPL, one can't see him forcing his way back into the selectors' mind space.

The hunt for his successor ended in Shreyas Iyer, marking one of the more punchy storylines in Indian cricket. Shreyas was put out to T20I pasture after the home series against Australia in December 2023.

His numbers even then were anything but shabby. After 51 games, he averaged 30.66 and had a strike-rate of 136.12 but when he was dropped for the World Cup in the Americas and beyond, it seemed as if time had passed him by even though he had age on his side and even though he had led Kolkata Knight Riders to their third IPL crown in 2024.

With typical pugnaciousness and no little flair, Shreyas went on a spree to break down the doors with one terrific season after another in the IPL. Last season, in his maiden outing with Punjab Kings, he became the first captain to take three different franchises to the IPL final, though there was no second successive title run as his team lost to Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the title clash. This year, Punjab seemed a shoo-on for the playoffs after winning six of their first seven games (the other was washed out), but a string of six straight losses meant that not even a century from the captain in a winning cause in their first fixture could secure a top-four finish. That didn't seem to matter; suddenly, Shreyas' captaincy skills were now the talk of the town even though he had been a terrific leader for many years before that. It helped, of course, that he stacked up 498 runs (average 55.33, SR 168.81) in the season gone by, cementing his claims ahead of Suryakumar's World Cup deputy, Delhi Capitals skipper Axar Patel.

Position of strength

Shreyas is well respected and liked within the group and therefore starts from a position of strength, even though he will inevitably feel the pressure that accompanies a comeback, and that too in a leadership capacity. He has plenty of experience around him to fall back on if he so deems fit, but he has largely been his own man, taking responsibility for his actions and decisions, and that won't change a huge deal. Much interest will revolve around how he acquits himself as a decision-maker in his early days in charge. Ireland might not be perceived as a major threat but England are a dangerous T20 side, as they reiterated during their near-miss in the World Cup semifinal against India in Mumbai. In England, Shreyas' tactical and man-management skills will be put through a stern examination.

One would think a new captain who has been installed in such theatrical circumstances would be the obvious headline act. But there is a young man in town who has thrown convention out of the window, so how can anyone other than Vaibhav Sooryavanshi be firmly under the spotlight? Already the youngest to break into the Indian team, the 15-year-old man-child is now poised to shatter Sachin Tendulkar's record and also become the youngest to represent the country. Whether that comes as early as on Friday, or as the tour unfolds, remains to be seen, but there is no disputing the fact that at some stage in the next fortnight, he will receive his India cap.

Sooryavanshi warmed up nicely for his maiden journey with the senior team with a grand run in Dambulla in a triangular 50-over 'A' series which he rounded off with a title-winning 29-ball 94 in the final against Sri Lanka last week. One can't recall the last time so many switched on their TV sets to watch one cricketer in action. The Orange Cap winner in IPL 2026 is the real deal, never mind his tender age or the fact that he needs a separate changing area as per English rules where those less than 16 aren't allowed to change in the dressing room. The obvious and clear attraction, Sooryavanshi will shade everything else. Never mind when he plays. What a burden at 15, but also, what a privilege at 15.

THE GIST

- Much interest will revolve around how he acquits himself as a decision-maker in his early days in charge. In England, Shreyas' tactical and man-management skills will be put through a stern examination
- There is a young man in town who has thrown convention out of the window, so how can anyone other than Vaibhav Sooryavanshi be firmly under the spotlight?
- The obvious and clear attraction, Sooryavanshi will shade everything else. Never mind when he plays

Businessman found dead in actor Krishi Thapanda's residence in R.R. Nagar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Bengaluru-based businessman was found dead in the residence of actor and former Bigg Boss contestant Krishi Thapanda at R.R. Nagar on Wednesday night. The deceased has been identified as Vaishak. He was arrested in an alleged extortion and threat case, and later released on bail.

According to the police, Vaishak is a resident of Girinagar. He had been staying in the apartment at R.R. Nagar for the past few days. He was reportedly alone in the actor's apartment when the incident occurred.

Sources said Vaishak had called Krishi shortly before the incident, but she was unable to answer as she was away in Nelamangala. He was said to have sent messages indicating that he intended to end his life.

After noticing the messages, Krishi alerted his family members, who rushed to the apartment. However, by the time they reached the flat, they found Vaishak dead.

The police said they did not find any note in the house or video message. Based on a complaint filed by Vaishak's father, the R.R. Nagar police have registered a case of unnatural death, and begun an investigation.

Vaishak came under the police radar earlier this year in connection with an alleged extortion case involving businessman Aravind Reddy. The police arrested him after a letter demanding several crores of rupees was allegedly sent to Reddy through a courier service.

Following a complaint by Reddy, a case was registered. Vaishak was arrested before being released on bail.

The case was linked to a long-running dispute between Reddy and the actor . In November 2025, the Rajarajeshwari Nagar police arrested Reddy, a film producer and real-estate businessman, on charges of stalking and harassing Krishi . He was detained at the Kempegowda International Airport upon his arrival from Sri Lanka after a lookout notice was issued against him. The police had then stated that Reddy and the actor became acquainted in 2021 during a cricket tournament in Sri Lanka and later entered into a live-in relationship. The actor subsequently distanced herself from him, alleging harassment and intimidation. A case was registered under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Meanwhile, following Vaishakh's death, Krishi arrived to pay her last respects at the crematorium, but was allegedly asked to leave by members of Vaishakh's family.

The police clarified that, as of now, no allegations have been made against any individual in connection with Vaishakh's death. Based on a complaint filed by his wife, a case has been registered under Unnatural Death Report (UDR) provisions.

"It is a UDR case and there is no mention of suspicion against anyone," a senior police officer said.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these helplines: TeleMANAS at 1-8008914416/ 14416, NIMHANS at 08026685948, 9480829670 or SAHAI at 080 25497777, +91-9886444075.)

Accused in triple murder case 'planned to dispose of mother's body'; search on for live-in partner

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after arresting Shweta, the elder daughter of the family from Puducherry in connection with the gruesome triple murder in Bengaluru, the police have intensified efforts to trace her live-in partner Kenneth, who remains absconding.

Six special teams have been deployed across Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry to track him down. Investigators said that the couple had initially planned to murder only Shweta's mother, Muthulakshmi, and dispose of her body at a different location. According to the probe, the duo intended to shift the body during the night after killing her.

However, their plan was disrupted when Shweta's father and younger sister returned home on the day of the crime around 8.30 p.m. The police believe the unexpected arrival forced the accused to kill the two additional family members, resulting in the triple murder. The investigation has revealed that Kenneth had rented a second one-bedroom apartment in Gururaj Layout near HAL in addition to the flat he occupied in K.R. Puram.

Plans for cover-up

The police suspect that the rented flat was intended to be used for moving and concealing the victim's body. The investigators said Shweta and Kenneth visited the flat carrying newly purchased suitcases after the murders. During searches of the other rented house linked to Kenneth in Doddanekkundi, the police recovered a plastic drum, a cutter and a hammer. The discovery of these items at the residence of a software engineer has raised further suspicion about possible plans to dispose of the bodies.

The police suspect the accused went directly to the Doddanekkundi house after committing the murders. The investigators believe they mixed chilli powder with hot water and splashed it inside the premises, allegedly to destroy evidence. Blood-stained hands were also reportedly washed there. Although Kenneth had shifted to the flat in Sigehalli nearly two months ago, he had retained the older rented house.

₹30 lakh debt

The police said Shweta, who was in a live-in relationship with Kenneth, had accumulated debts of around ₹30 lakh with him. The couple frequently quarrelled with her family over a share in the family property. The investigators suspect the murders were committed after her parents refused to divide the property.

Activists seek ₹50 lakh compensation for families of STP workers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka State Committee of Right to Information Activists has requested Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to provide compensation of ₹50 lakh each to the families of two workers who died after falling into a 40-foot-deep sewage treatment plant of the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board on June 18.

The group held a silent protest outside the BWSSB office on Thursday. In a letter addressed to the Chief Minister and BWSSB Chairperson Manjula N., it stated that the incident had raised concerns over worker safety, supervision and accountability at the plant.

It called for fixing accountability on those responsible for the incident and sought strict enforcement of safety standards to prevent similar accidents in the future. They demanded that all necessary resources be made available to National Disaster Response Force, Fire and Emergency Services personnel and BWSSB officials to ensure speedy recovery of the second body.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU MEMORIAL FUND
TEEN MURTI HOUSE, NEW DELHI - 110011

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DOCTORAL STUDIES

Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund, Teen Murti House, New Delhi-110011 invites applications for Jawaharlal Nehru Scholarships for Doctoral Studies for the year 2026. Eighteen scholarships (UR-6/SC-3/ST-1/OBC-5/EWS-2/PwD-1) will be offered to Indian Nationals and two scholarships to Nationals of other Asian countries for Ph.D. studies in India from 1 April 2027 for up to 2 years. The subjects covered are: Indian History & Civilization, Sociology, Comparative Studies in Religion & Culture, Ecology & Environment and Economics. Application forms can be downloaded from our website or obtained from the JNMF office. Duly filled in forms should reach the JNMF office latest by 31 August 2026. Further details such as stipend and other terms and conditions will be available in the Information Sheet in our website: www.jnmf.in; Email: jnmfl964@gmail.com

Administrative Secretary

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
[SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION VIDE COURT ORDER DATED: 11/06/2026]

ITA No. 513/2023

[VIDEO CONFERENCING / PHYSICAL HEARING]

PETITIONER/S

THE PR. COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX
5TH FLOOR, BMTC BUILDING,
80 FEET ROAD, KORMANGALA,
BENGALURU AND ANOTHER

Vs.

RESPONDENT/S

M/S FLIPKART ONLINE SERVICES
PVT LTD

TO: RESPONDENT

M/S FLIPKART ONLINE SERVICES PVT LTD
NO.447/C, 1ST A CROSS,
12TH MAIN, 4TH BLOCK,
KORAMANGALA,
BENGALURU-560025
PAN: AABCF 3146L

Whereas the above named Petitioner has filed the above ITA on this Court under Section 260A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 as in the copy of the petition annexed hereunto.

Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this Court in person or through an Advocate duly instructed or through someone authorized by law to act for you, in this matter on 09.07.2026 at 10:30 A.M. in case you intend to contest the appeal. If you fail to appear, the appeal will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 11th Day of June 2026.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

MU 19.06.2026

CIVIL UNIT-IV

AFFIDAVIT

I, Rajashekharayya S/o B.R.Adaveeshaiah, Aged abot 51 years, Residing at Bommenahalli, Nittur Hobali, Gubbi Tq., Tumkur District India, Do Solemnly affirm and declare as under :-

Original unregistered partitioned is lost

One B R Adaveeshaiah S/o Late Revanna his brother BR Ganganna of Bommenahalli, Nittur Hubli, Gubbi Taluk have partitioned their ancestral and joint family properties under the unregistered partition deed dated 15.02.1997. As per the partition the said B R Adaveeshaiah acquired survey number 35 measuring 1 acre 20 guntas, survey number 33/1 measuring 30 guntas and survey number 13/2 measuring 1 acre 17 guntas were fallen to his share. Based on the partition deed revenue authority of Gubbi taluk changed the revenue records into the name of B R Adaveeshaiah and M R No 6/97-98 and 10/97-98 and RTCs were stood in his name, since then he was in possession and enjoyment of the said lands as owner with his wife and sons.

Recently on 29.05.2014 the said B.R Adaveeshaiah his wife Jayama sons B R Rajashekaraiah, Jagadeeshaiah and Omkara Murthy of Bommenahalli have partitioned the above said lands and other properties under the registered partition deed, as per the partition the said lands are fallen to the share of B R Rajashekaraiah.

On 08.06.2026 when the said B R Rajshekhariah coming to Gubbi from his native to meet advocate the original unregisted partition deed dated 15.02.1997 is lost. After through search he lodged complaint in online portal. If anybody got it, same may be returned to B A Rajashekraiah S/o Late B R Adaveshaiah of Bommenahalli.

T.S. Mahantesh, Advocate & Notary
Gubbi Taluk & Town, Tumkuru Dist., Karnataka - 572 216.

Date: 24.06.2026

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Salem Division
Office of the Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer
Electric Loco Shed, Erode
E-Tender Notice No. SA_A_RS_ED_OT_26_27_11,
Dated: 23.06.2026

Online tender is invited for the following work:

Tender No	SA_A_RS_ED_OT_26_27_11, Dated: 23.06.2026
Description of Work	**Works contract for General electrical maintenance at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode.**

All details regarding the tender are available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / Rolling Stock / Erode
For and on behalf of the President of India

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Person(s) **Mohd. Asif @ Aasif Prop Of M/s Bharath Alluminium Glass Hardware & Fabrication, Add:** Room No. 1,2,3 198, Ganesh Towers, Napoklu Village & Post, Napoklu, Madikeri Taluk, Kodagu, Karnataka-571217 has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **CC No. 5164/24, U/s: 138 NI Act, PS: Pahar Ganj, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) **Mohd. Asif,** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) **Mohd. Asif,** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) **Mohd. Asif,** of **CC No. 5164/24, U/s: 138 NI Act, PS: Pahar Ganj, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **22.08.2026**.

By Order
Sh. Arjun Kirar
Judicial Magistrate First Class (NI Act)-05 (Central)
Room No. 02 Ground Floor (Central District)
Building Annexe-01
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP8539/CD/2026
(Court Matter)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client intends to purchase the schedule property from **Sri. B.K.Nanda Gopal S/o Late Kare Thimmaiah** who had acquired the same **through a registered Gift deed dated 12-12-2024 registered as Document No. BSG-1-06119-2024-25** in **the office of the Sub-Registrar, Basavanagudi, Bangalore** executed by his **mother Smt. M. Papamma.** Said property was previously purchased by **Smt. Papamma** under a registered **sale deed dated 25-08-1997 registered as Document No. 6602/97-98 in Book-1, volume: 1689 at pages 101-105 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Kengeri executed by The Bharath Housing Co-Op. Society Ltd.**

It is therefore requested that the general public who have any claim over the schedule property or objection for the proposed purchase shall lodge such claim/objection in writing along with supporting documents with the undersigned **within one week** from the date of publication of this notice. If no such claim or objection is received, my client will complete the deal as proposed. Time barred claim will not be entertained.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the **vacant site No. 621, E-PID No. 5421842876,** in the layout formed by **BHCS Ltd, now known as B. L. Lakkegowda Nagar,** at Sy Nos. 77(P), 78(P),79, 80(P) 87(P) and 88(P) of Uttarahalli village, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore within the jurisdiction of BBMP, ward No 184 measuring East to West: 30 feet , North to South: 40 feet in all measuring 1200 Sq. ft bounded on: East by : Site No. 622, West by : Site No. 620, North by: Road, South by: Site No. 598.

P.Mahalinga Bhat and Srividya P.M,
Advocates,
Office Address: No.2386,T F-2, 3rd Floor, Keerthi Kuteeram Apartment, Pipeline Road, K.S. Layout, Bangalore – 78.
Mobile - 9341215791

Bangalore/Dated : 25-06-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the NOTICE of General Public at large, that my clients **MR.AYUSH KANKARIYA and MR.RAJATH KANKARIYA** Both are Sons of Mr.Bahadur Kankariya, negotiated and decided to purchase the schedule property from its lawful owners **MR.AARAV.D (also known as AARAV DEEPAK) and Ms.ANHITI.D (also known as ANHITI DEEPAK)** Both are children of Sri.Deepak.R and Smt.Megha.B.R, who are assured my clients that they have a clear & marketable title with respect to the schedule property & they have the full rights to sell the schedule property. Further they have assured that they are in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the schedule property and the schedule property is free from all kinds of litigations and encumbrances.

This notice is hereby given for the information of General public that, any persons/Banks/Financial institutes having any right, title, share, claim or interest against/in the schedule property by way of sale, inheritance, bequest, exchange, gift, possession, trust, mortgage, lease, license, lien, charge, tenancy, lis pendency, development rights, maintenance, easement or under any Agreement of Sale or Power of Attorney, option, right of first refusal or preemption whatsoever or otherwise howsoever, may contact me with their documentary/legitimate proof in support of their claim within **15 (Fifteen) days** from the date of this notice. If no claim is so lodged with me within **15 (Fifteen) days** from the date of publication, after which my clients shall proceed with the Absolute Sale Deed on the basis that there are no claims whatsoever, as if the same is free from all kinds of claims/encumbrances and no claim shall be entertained later and shall be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the part and parcel of the Property bearing **No.75** (Old No.4), PID No.49-72-75, BBMP EPID No.1935341822, Situated at **Krishna Rajendra Road (K.R.Road), Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004,** Measuring : East to West **110 feet** and North to South **60 feet,** in all measuring **6600 Sq.feet** and bounded on the :-

East by : Sri Krishna Rajendra Main Road, West by : Conservancy, North by : Property of Late D.C.Subbarayappa and South by : Property bearing No.74.

Mrs.M.Manjula, Advocate
No.C-1, 1st Floor, Maruthi Pearl Plaza, D.V.G.Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004. Mob : 9945027091.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my clients intend to purchase the immovable properties mentioned and described in the schedule below from its owners **(i) Sri. Bharat Sarpeshkar,** son of Late B. Balwant Rao, and **(ii) Smt. Vijaya Balijepalli Shastry,** daughter of Late B. Balwant Rao and wife of Sri. Rameshwar Shastry, (hereafter collectively referred to as **"Owners"**).

The Owners represent that the Schedule Properties are free from any encumbrances, mortgages, demands, liens, charges, claims, attachments, acquisitions, litigation, court proceedings, court orders, and they have not entered into any sort of Agreements/ MOU/Deeds, etc. for transfer, sale and/or use of the Schedule Properties. Any person/s having any objection, claim, right, title and/or interest with respect to the Schedule Properties or any part or portion thereof by way of sale, conveyance, acquisition, partition, transfer, memorandum of understanding, exchange, mortgage, pledge, charge, encumbrance, inheritance, succession, lease, easement or demand or objections or claims of any nature whatsoever for the for the proposed transaction shall lodge their claim(s)/ objections(s)/ demand(s) with the undersigned, supported by documentary evidence, **within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Notice,** failing which my clients shall proceed with the above-mentioned transactions as though there are no claim(s)/ objections(s)/ demand(s) to the proposed transactions, and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property bearing Front Portion of Residential House Property, along with RCC roofed house, bearing **Site No. 35/262,** having new BBMP Khatha e-PID No. 2939127888, Property PID 58-85/35-1; and, all that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property bearing Rear Portion of Residential House Property, along with RCC roofed house, bearing Site No. 35/262, having new BBMP Khatha **e-PID No. 7161767253,** Property PID 58-85/35; both combined, situated at **BBMP Ward No. 179, Shakambarinagar, at 36th Cross, 8th Block Jayanagar, Bangalore-560070,** and both properties conjointly measuring East to West : **80 Feet,** North to South : **120 Feet,** totally measuring **9600 Sq. Ft.** or approx. **891.88 Sq. Mtrs.**, and bounded on the **East by : Site No. 263, West by : Site No. 261, North by : 36th Cross Road, South by : Site No. 267.**

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. **M : 9916343921**
e-mail : y.somiyadav354@gmail.com

IDBI BANK

IDBI Bank Limited, Retail Asset Centre, 326, 1st Floor
Junction of 6th Main-80ft Road, Indiranagar, Bengaluru - 560 038.

Order by the Competent Authority

In the matter of classification of persons/firm mentioned below as Fraud, Notice is hereby given to the persons/firm mentioned below that the Order issued by the Bank in terms of RBI Master Directions on Fraud Risk Management in Commercial Banks (including Regional Rural Banks) and All India Financial Institutions dated July 15, 2024 ('Master Directions'), has been returned un-served.

Name	Address	Designation
M/s Landstar Homes	No.80/4, Rampura Main Road, Hirandahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore – 560 049	Builder
Smt Lakshmi Rangaswamy	No.H-108, Sriram Spurti, AECS Layout, Brookefield, Kundalahalli, Bangalore–560 037.	Managing Partner, M/s Landstar Homes
Shri K Uma Maheshwara Reddy	"BAVANA", No.330/2, 1st Cross, SR Layout, Mrugesh Playa, Bangalore – 560 017.	Managing Partner, M/s Landstar Homes
Shri Ankit Chrungu	No 302, Premdeep Homes, 1st Main Road, 3rd Cross, Vinayak Temple, Vinayakanagar, Bangalore 560017.	Borrower
Shri Gouse Khan	No 234, 3rd Floor, 1st Main, 2nd Block, Devasandra Main Road, K R Puram, Bangalore 560036.	Borrower
Shri Dowlath Khan	No 234, 3rd Floor, 1st Main, 2nd Block, Devasandra Main Road, K R Puram, Bangalore 560036	Borrower
Shri Parmanand Goswami	No 177, Hosamane, 2nd Cross, 5th Main, Thaiyappa Garden, Bilekahalli, Bangalore 560076	Borrower
Smt. Chaya A Giri	No 177, Hosamane, 2nd Cross, 5th Main, Thaiyappa Garden, Bilekahalli, Bangalore 560076	Borrower
Shri Shihan Shariff	No 17, 1st Floor, 6th Main, 3rd Cross, Maruthi Layout, Btm 1st Stage, Bangalore 560 029.	Borrower
Shri T Anil Kumar Patro	No 58, 2nd Floor, Samriddhi Layout, Near Lake Montfort School, Segehalli, Bangalore 560049	Borrower
Shri Vishal Thapa	No 104, K And I Royalfort Apartment, Mongolia Enclave Layout, Electronic City Phase 1, Doddathoguru, Bangalore-560 100.	Borrower
Smt. Manjuri Gurung	No 104, K And I Royalfort Apartment, Mongolia Enclave Layout, Electronic City Phase 1, Doddathoguru, Bangalore-560 100.	Borrower

The above persons/firm, if they so desire, may like to collect the returned undelivered Reasoned Order, either in person or by duly authorized person by producing proof of identity, from the undersigned at the address as given above.

Date: 26.06.2026
Ajay K Peter
Deputy General Manager

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)

Regional Office : Mandya No. 4 F, Vivekananda Nagar, Chikka Mandya Kere, Mandya - 571401 Mob.: 9444655533
Email id : recmandyaro@canarabank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE [For Immovable Property]

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Canara Bank, Malavalli Branch** under the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002), and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice Dated **08-04-2026 (Acknowledgment done on 13-04-2026)** calling upon the **1. Borrower: Smt. Mahadevamma R** W/o Prakash M, No 25, Dhanvantari Vana, 9th Cross, Rajarajeshwari Layout, Nagadevanahalli, Ullalu, Bengaluru – 560056. **2. Guarantor And Mortgagor: Sri. Prakash M** S/o Madev @ Madaiah, No 25, Dhanvantari Vana, 9th Cross, Rajarajeshwari Layout, Nagadevanahalli, Ullalu, Bengaluru – 560056 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs. 24,08,593.48 (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Eight Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Three and Forty Eight Paisa Only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this **19th day of June of the year 2026.**

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Canara Bank, Malavalli Branch** for an amount of **Rs. 24,47,696.48 (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Forty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Six and Forty Eight Paisa Only)** and further interest, incidental expenses thereon.

Name of Title Holder : SRI. PRAKASH M S/O MADEV @ MADAIAH

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All That Part And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Property No. 5/1-25, Present BBMP Khatha No: 2320/6217/5/1/25, Site No. 25, Old Khatha No 5/1, Situated At Nagadevanahalli Village, Erstwhile Kengeri Municipality Limits, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk Presently Coming Under Jurisdiction Of BBMP, Within Kengeri Sub-division Limits, Bengaluru, Having BBMP PID No. 6217/5/1/25. **Measuring : East To West – 45 Feet, North To South – 25 Feet. Total Measuring : 1125 Square Feet. Boundaries: East -** Dhanvantari Vana, **West –** Road, **North -** Property No. 24, **South -** Property No. 26.

Date : 19-06-2026
Place : Mandya

Sd/- Authorized Officer
Canara Bank

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO) LIQUID PROPULSION SYSTEMS CENTRE (LPSC)
Construction & Maintenance Division
LPSC Campus, 80 Ft. Road, HAL II Stage, Bengaluru -560 008. Ph:080-25037203/080-25037214

Date: 25.06.2026

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, item rate tenders are invited for the following work:

Sl. No.	Name of work and NIT No. & Date	Estimated Amount	EMD	Period of Completion
1	Supply, Installation, testing and commissioning of UPS systems for ITPF facility, LPSC, Tumakuru-Providing input & output cable system NIT No: LPSC(B)/CMD/02/2046/E/MI/009/2026-27 Date: 25.06.2026	**₹ 19.87 Lakhs**	**₹ 39,740/-**	**20 Days**
	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 18:30 hrs on 25.06.2026 to 03.07.2026 till 23:59 hrs.**		
	Bid Clarification	**From 20:00 hrs on 25.06.2026 to 06.07.2026 till 10:00 hrs.**		
	Last date and time reply to Bid Clarification	**06.07.2026 up to 17:00 hrs.**		
	Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**07.07.2026 up to 11:00 hrs.**		
	Due date and time of opening of tenders	**07.07.2026 at 11:30 hrs.**		

Interested tenderers may please refer **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.** Also detailed Notice Invting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from **www.isro.gov.in, www.lpsc.gov.in**

Sd/- Head CMD, LPSC(B)

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

WE, SUDHAKAR Shetty Kudalu & Amrutha Shetty Parents of Vaishnavi Shetty, R/at No.6, 6th Cross, 6th Main, Lakshmappa Garden, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085, have changed our minor daughter's name to Vaishnavi S Shetty vide Affidavit dated 23-06-2026 sworn before Notary Gangaraju,B.N, Bengaluru.

I, Buvan Sai Reddy, R/at 1503, A Block Incore Caramel Heights Apartment, Whitefield, Bangalore -560066 have changed my name from Buvan Sai Reddy Kalikiri to Buvan Sai Reddy vide affidavit dated 25-06-2026 sworn before Notary K. V. Mani, Bengaluru

OLD AGE HOME

SUKHSHANTHI LUXURY Retirement Home, near Sarjapura Bangalore Rs. 22,575/- monthly Rs.1,500 per day furnished accommodation. 3 Meals, 24X7 Nurse, Ambulance Call: 9341289357

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TENDERS

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Invited for sale of
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Thekkady, Kerala For Details :
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Last Date : 22.07.2026 11.00 AM

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XXV ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE CITY CIVIL COURT AT BENGALURU
P & SC No. 245/2026 (CCH-23)

BETWEEN: Smt. Radha Kantamsetti ... PETITIONER

AND: Sri. Sridhar BK, & Others **...RESPONDENTS**

PUBLIC NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENTS AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

To, **1. Sri. Sridhar .B K,** S/o Late Smt. Ratna Krishna Murthy, R/at No. 5-21-160, 3/10, Brodipet, Gunturu, Andhra Pradesh-522002. **2. Mrs. Shoba Cheemakurthi,** D/o Late Smt. Ratna Krishna Murthy, No. 1118, Plot No, 158, Gopal Reddy Nagar, Hafeezpet, Hyderabad, Telangana 500049.

WHEREAS, Smt. Radha Kantamsetti has instituted the above Petition under Section 276 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, before this Hon'ble Court. The respondent are the Brother and Sister of the Petitioner Smt Radha Kantamsetti, The Deceased Smt Rathna Krishna murthy died on 19/01/2010. Any person or persons having any claim, objection, interest, conveyable interest, or right in respect of the estate subject matter involved in the Late Smt. Ratna Krishna Murthy, has instituted the above Petition. You are hereby summoned / notified to appear before this Hon'ble Court either in person or through Advocate on **10-07-2026** at 11:00 A.M and file objections, if any, failing which the matter shall be proceeded with and disposed of in accordance with law.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential flat bearing No. 50, situated at Ganga Apartments, 1st Main, 7th Cross, Ganga Nagar Extension (Old Binny Mill Road), near Mekri Circle, Bengaluru-560032, together with undivided share in land, fixtures, fittings, furniture and household articles, acquired under registered Sale Deed dated 29.03.1993.

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site No. 533, situated at Turahalli Village, in the layout known as Vajramuni Nagar formed in Gubbalalu and Turahalli Layout, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 1200 square feet, and bounded on the: East by: Site No. 532, West by: Site No. 534, North by: Road, South by: Site No. 538

Given under the seal of this Hon'ble Court on 23-06-2026.

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

As home care needs rise, insurance gaps widen

ILLUSTRATION: SAAI

Doctors, geriatric care specialists and patient advocates are calling for health insurance policies to expand beyond hospitalisation and cover home-based care, which they say, has become a critical part of modern treatment and recovery

The Hindu Bureau

- According to research, India's home healthcare market was valued at $16.3 billion in 2025 and is expected to reach $74.57 billion by 2034
- India's health insurance architecture is built predominantly around acute hospitalisation episodes. This means that the ongoing care needs of a burgeoning elderly population are largely ignored

For Srijita Basak, a resident of Kolkata, the cost of looking after her elderly parents over the past three years has run into lakhs. And there is no end in sight. "My mother had replacement surgeries on both her knees and my father has had multiple operations for his back issues after he had a fall and hurt his spine. For both, while a bulk of the surgery and hospital costs were met through insurance, none of the aftercare at home has been covered. We have incurred massive costs for home nurses, medicines, a hospital bed for home, physiotherapy and care," said the 31-year-old, private company employee.

Srijita's case is not unique: with India's life expectancy having increased from 41 years in 1950 to 72 in 2024, Indians are living longer, but not necessarily healthier. India's senior citizen population is expected to touch 347 million by 2050, and its metabolic disease burden is amongst the highest in the world, and the country accounts for 11% of the world's road traffic accidents. Taken together, these facts mean that a significant number of citizens need health care at home, sometimes for a short period and in other cases, long-term. According to market research company IMARC Group, India's home healthcare market was valued at $16.3 billion in 2025 and is expected to reach $74.57 billion by 2034. And yet, insurance models have not kept pace with these needs, home healthcare services are expensive, unregulated and often unqualified, and community healthcare services are scarce.

> Healthcare and insurance systems continue to focus on acute care and hospitalisation, while chronic conditions place the greatest long-term financial and emotional burden on families. Recognition of home care as a component of holistic healthcare is essential
>
> **SRIKALA BHARATH**
> Geriatric psychiatrist

As healthcare increasingly shifts from hospitals to patients' homes, doctors, geriatric care specialists and patient advocates are calling for health insurance policies to expand beyond hospitalisation and cover home-based care, which they say, has become a critical part of modern treatment and recovery.

After a hospital stay

For many, the end of the hospital signifies the end of costs. For some, however, the financial burden becomes worse after hospitalisation, says Pavithra Reddy, chief operating officer of Vayah Vikas, a Bengaluru-based organisation working with senior citizens. "Older adults recovering from strokes, fractures, surgeries or serious illnesses frequently require nursing support, physiotherapy, wound care, mobility assistance and medical equipment at home. Yet these services are rarely covered by insurance. Families often spend between ₹30,000 to ₹1 lakh a month on post-hospitalisation care."

A caregiver supporting a family member with dementia in Karnataka said they currently pay ₹36,000 a month for a full-time attendant. "We have no choice because the caregiver gives us peace of mind, but the costs are substantial and there is virtually no insurance support," the caregiver said.

Srikala Bharath, geriatric psychiatrist who was formerly with NIMHANS, Bengaluru, said continuity of care remains one of the weakest links in India's healthcare system. "Healthcare and insurance systems continue to focus on acute care and hospitalisation, while chronic conditions place the greatest long-term financial and emotional burden on families. Recognition of home care as a component of holistic healthcare is essential," she said.

Ramani Sundaram, executive director of Dementia India Alliance, said families caring for persons with dementia face particularly high costs. "Long-term nursing support, medication management and caregiver assistance are almost entirely funded out of pocket. Home healthcare remains under insured and inadequately regulated," she said.

India's health insurance architecture is built predominantly around acute hospitalisation episodes. This means that the ongoing care needs of a burgeoning elderly population who might need support for home-based rehabilitation or chronic care are largely ignored.

"This is a critical gap in our health financing system which neither insurance companies nor the government has chosen to address. These problems are only going to worsen," a Kerala-based health financing expert said.

What is offered by Indian health insurance companies for home-based care – domiciliary hospitalisation – is a specific, narrow provision offered for short-term care at home, which the treating doctor must prescribe and certify. Even with this however, insurance companies have tightened exclusion clauses and have brought in restrictions. "Many are not offering domiciliary hospitalisation cover at all because these claims are very hard to verify and there have been many fraudulent claims. Many now cap it at a percentage of the sum insured," said Stanley Wilson, business associate, New India Assurance company.

The lack of training

The expense apart, families noted that home nurses provided through agencies are often unqualified and untrained.

When his father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, Prakash, a government employee in Thiruvananthapuram, decided to look for dedicated caregivers for him. "I wanted him to be taken care of at home. But it was not easy. I discovered that there were no qualified home nursing care providers and none of the 'home nurses' that I hired had any idea how to manage a dementia patient. They would all leave within two days of being hired, complaining that my dad was a "difficult" patient and that he was "non-cooperative". We could not make them understand that my father needed compassionate care and that he seemed to be "difficult" because he was losing his comprehension skills and memory day-by-day."

Over the next few years, Prakash hired a string of home nurses – all of whom, he said, expected to merely help elderly people, not care for them professionally. "None of them knew how to give insulin shots or to even give medication based on the prescription," he said.

The burden becomes even heavier when children live abroad and their elderly parents at home require care, an issue that is raising serious social concerns in many parts of the country.

Sreejaya, originally from Kerala and now in Dubai, took several months off work to care for her ailing mother-in-law, after none of the caregivers she hired proved to have any training. And her experience was similar even at a senior living facility. "The living facilities were fine, but for the care of patients like Amma, who is close to 90, has lost her eyesight to glaucoma and has a host of other ailments, they did not have professionally trained caregivers. They were also depending on agencies to supply them with "home nurses" who had no knowledge or training," she said.

The impact

Members of families where one person requires long-term care often have to give up their jobs to care for the sick relative themselves, because outside help, even if untrained, is prohibitively expensive. This creates immense socio-economic and psychological stress, said Subarna Goswami, a senior physician and public health administrator, based in Kolkata.

Financial constraints also often force families to cut back on essential rehabilitation, nursing visits, and follow-ups, Dr. Goswami pointed out. "This compromises recovery, leading to avoidable complications like infections, permanent functional disability, and preventable hospital readmissions. It also overburdens hospital resources by driving up dependency on inpatient services. Ultimately, underinvesting in home care paradoxically spikes total healthcare costs," Dr. Goswami added.

Home-based care can significantly reduce not only medical expenses but also the indirect costs associated with illness. "When one family member falls sick, caregivers often lose workdays and household productivity suffers. Home care has the potential to reduce these burdens while ensuring continuity of treatment," said U.S. Vishal Rao, group director for head and neck surgical oncology and robotic surgery at HCG Cancer Centre, Bengaluru.

What is required, said the Kerala health financing expert, is a model that blends both traditional health insurance and welfare provisions, to address the increasing long-term care needs of senior citizens, people with disabilities or conditions and injuries. Japan and Germany for instance, have long-term insurance care policies that take this into account. This is an issue that has begun to figure in policy discussions on the demographic crisis and the consequent needs of the elderly population

From a financial planning perspective, Priyanka Rana Patgiri, consultant, geriatrics at Apollo Hospitals, Chennai, pointed out, it may be advisable for families to consider adding a domiciliary floater cover to a health insurance policy.

While post-operative extended convalesce is mostly covered post major surgeries conducted in hospitals, utilisation of this remains limited as these work mostly on a reimbursement, not cashless basis, said Arti Malik, chief technology officer, Universal Sompo General Insurance. However, more people now want cover for both active hospitalisations and extended convalescence and recovery, she noted. When it comes to training, Ms. Sreejaya said that there was an urgent need for caregivers who are well-versed in dealing with patients, able to understand doctors' instructions and manage aspects like patient hygiene, dressing wounds, preventing bed sores, checking blood sugar and pressure, checking for vitals etc.

Home care organisations face problems of shortage of staff as there is often no dignity of labour, noted Dr. Patgiri. Training of staff, proper communication and better salaries would help address such issues, she said, adding that effective home care should go beyond medical treatment to include assistance with daily activities, social engagement and caregiver support. "Accreditation of home care organisations by the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare (NABH) will pave the way for greater standardisation of care. This can help improve the quality of care and achieve maintainable benchmarks," she stressed.

Community care

Going forward, a community-based model integrating healthcare, social support and care giving services will be essential to help older adults age with dignity at home. Hospital admissions in older adults are often diagnosed in the emergency room, but they begin at home months earlier, Dr. Patgiri pointed out.

In this regard, Kerala, which leads the country both with the highest prevalence of chronic, non-communicable diseases and with top-performing public health infrastructure, is now taking the first step towards creating a brigade of professional nursing care service providers by launching a government-approved six-month 'Caregiver Certificate Course', in government and private nursing colleges, as well as in selected hospitals, aimed at ensuring professional care for those in need and providing dignified employment.

In the private sector, an NGO, Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) has joined hands with palliative care organisation, Pallium India, to train women in giving professional palliative/nursing care to those who require it. SEWA's Secretary, Sonia George says that the first batch of 30 women are now rendering professional caregivers' service in hospitals and homes and that the demand for the service has been so huge that they have not been able to keep pace. Such an initiative could be modelled across the country

Apart from rehauling insurance models, policies from the government for training of workers to build a skilled cadre, regulations for wage guarantees and rules to ensure the safety and dignity of both patients and those providing care, financial aid for family caregivers and setting up provisions for respite care could all go a long way towards helping families and societies care for their aged and disabled, say experts.

The problem is growing. India's financial and care models need to catch up.

(With inputs from C. Maya in Kerala, Afshan Yasmeen in Karnataka, Shrabana Chatterjee in West Bengal, Serena Josephine M. in Tamil Nadu and Bindu Shajan Perappadan in Delhi.)
(health@thehindu.co.in)

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Amount approved by ADB to boost bamboo industry in northeast

42.2 in $ million. The Asian Development Bank has approved a USD 42.2 million small-expenditure financing facility to develop the bamboo industry in India's northeastern States. It will support community-based projects that enhance the usage of bamboo resources across Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura. PTI

Number of ships that sailed through Strait of Hormuz since June 23

57 Some 57 ships carrying an estimated 1,100 seafarers have transited the Strait of Hormuz since June 23 under a United Nations evacuation plan launched this week. These are the first numbers to be released by the U.N.'s International Maritime Organization for the initiative, which will enable hundreds of ships with some 11,000 seafarers to leave the Strait. REUTERS

IAS, DANICS officers transferred by Delhi government

60 In a major administrative reshuffle, the Delhi government has transferred 60 IAS and DANICS cadre officers, with immediate effect. According to the Services department orders issued on Wednesday, the additional chief secretary (ACS) of the Social Welfare Department will also handle the additional charge of the Women and Child Development department. PTI

Forest fire incidents across Maharashtra during 2023-24

5,100 More than 5,100 forest fire incidents were reported across Maharashtra during 2023-24, affecting 11,580.707 hectares of forest land, Forest Minister Ganesh Naik informed the State Legislative Assembly on Thursday. He was responding to questions raised by MLAs from Shiv Sena (UBT) and BJP over forest fires. PTI

Trees felled illegally in Maharashtra in the last five years

3.5 lakh. As many as 3.5 lakh trees were felled illegally in forest areas in Maharashtra in the last five years, Forest Minister Ganesh Naik informed the State Legislative Assembly on Thursday. The trees chopped illegally included 1.24 lakh teak trees, the Minister said, adding that it amounted to a loss of ₹30 crore to the State exchequer. PTI

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Revisiting India's ultrasound laws

Technological shifts and rising need for community-based cancer screening suggest that regulatory frameworks should adapt to distinguish between different use cases of ultrasound. An amendment to the PCPNDT Act could legalise community-based ultrasound using a high-frequency linear probe, as it will not impact sex determination

FULL CONTEXT

Parth Sharma
Senthil Kumar A.R.

Mrs. Janki (name changed), a 45-year-old woman, came to a health camp organised in rural Assam with a complaint of a painless breast lump. She had noticed the lump three months earlier and reported that it had gradually increased in size. On examination, the doctor suspected breast cancer and advised her to visit a cancer hospital located two hours away for further evaluation.

"But I have no pain. The hospital is so far away. There is nobody to come with me to the hospital," Mrs. Janki said. Despite repeated counselling, she refused to seek further care.

Three months later, Janki finally presented to the hospital. By then, she had developed a large, bleeding mass in her breast. She was diagnosed with advanced stage breast cancer and died six months later.

Technological advances, like portable ultrasound machines, have made it possible to bring cancer diagnostics, such as ultrasound imaging and ultrasound-guided biopsies, closer to people's homes. This machine could, perhaps, have given Mrs. Janaki a diagnosis at her doorstep. However, India's Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act treats the movement of an ultrasound machine outside a registered facility as a serious offence, with penalties that can include a minimum of three months' non-bailable imprisonment.

Expanding access: Portable, handheld ultrasound devices can make it technically feasible to bring diagnostic services closer to patients' homes. GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

- The PCPNDT Act was introduced in 1994 to curb prenatal sex determination and the selective abortion of female foetuses in response to a declining child sex ratio.
- The law has not kept pace with advances in ultrasound technology, including portable handheld devices that can bring diagnostic services closer to patients' homes.
- For countries such as India, where access to specialist radiologists and diagnostic imaging remains uneven, such innovation could aid early cancer detection, particularly in underserved areas.

Provisions of the PCPNDT Act

The PCPNDT Act was introduced in 1994 in response to a sharp decline in the child sex ratio in India, driven by a strong societal preference for male children and the growing misuse of technologies such as ultrasonography for prenatal sex determination, followed by selective abortion of female foetuses. Abortion of female foetuses became more evident from the 1980s, with the increasing availability of imaging technologies, raising serious ethical, demographic, and public health concerns. The legislation, therefore, aimed not only to prevent the misuse of medical technology but also to address the deeper issue of gender discrimination.

The law mandates registration of all genetic clinics, ultrasound centres, and laboratories and strictly prohibits the communication or disclosure of the sex of the foetus. It prescribes detailed record-keeping, monitoring mechanisms, and penalties to ensure compliance.

Under this Act, the purchase of an ultrasound machine is not a routine commercial transaction but a tightly-regulated process. A clinic or hospital must first be registered with the district government as a genetic clinic or imaging centre before acquiring a machine. Purchasing one without prior registration is illegal. Manufacturers or dealers are required to verify the buyer's credentials and obtain a written undertaking that the machine will not be used for sex determination. The sale must be documented with invoice details that match the registered centre, and the transaction is reported to the authorities for monitoring.

Once installed, the machine must remain at the approved location, its details must be recorded in official registers, and strict documentation, including patient records for every scan, must be maintained.

Impact of PCPNDT Act

Following the introduction of the PCPNDT Act, the sex ratio at birth in India has shown a gradual improvement at the national level. While this improvement cannot be conclusively attributed to the introduction of the Act, several unintended consequences can be directly attributed to it.

Evidence suggests that families whose first child is a girl tend to have more children in an effort to have a son, compared to families with a firstborn boy. Following restrictions on prenatal sex selection, families experienced a 25% higher child mortality rate among firstborn girls relative to firstborn boys. This could be explained by the decline in parental investment in health, particularly among girls. Fertility also increased in these families, indicating a shift toward having more children when sex selection was not an option. Having a larger number of children also led to dilution of resources, likely reducing overall investment per child. Similar patterns were observed in education as gender disparities widened. These effects were more pronounced among poorer, rural households that were more affected by the restrictions, as they could not afford illegal services to abort the child.

Recent reports indicate that sex-selective practices continue despite decades of legal prohibition. In October 2025, authorities uncovered an illegal racket in Karnataka where organised networks were carrying out prenatal sex determination and facilitating abortions, often targeting vulnerable women from rural areas. Similar crackdowns across different States show that such activities are frequently conducted outside formal health systems, using portable ultrasound devices, informal providers, and covert arrangements to evade regulation.

The issue is not confined to India. Reports from the United Kingdom indicates that son preference may persist among some diaspora communities as well. Reports have also raised concerns that families of Indian origin may be engaging in sex-selective practices even in settings with stricter oversight, highlighting the deep-rooted nature of gender bias that transcends national boundaries.

Taken together, these patterns underscore a critical limitation of legislative approaches. While laws such as the PCPNDT Act establish an essential regulatory framework, they are insufficient on their own to drive social change.

The case for reform

Available evidence suggests that the PCPNDT Act has not fully achieved its intended objectives and may, in some contexts, have had unintended adverse effects. Additionally, fear of legal repercussions and stringent regulatory requirements has had a chilling effect on service provision.

Moreover, The PCPNDT Act has not kept pace with advances in ultrasound technology. Portable, handheld ultrasound devices, often connected to smartphones or tablets, make it technically feasible to bring diagnostic services closer to patients' homes, which is particularly relevant for early cancer detection in underserved areas. However, the use of such devices at the community level is currently illegal in India.

Modern high-frequency probes used for applications such as cancer detection and the assessment of other superficial conditions cannot be used for foetal sex determination, yet remain subject to the same regulatory restrictions, limiting access to essential diagnostic care.

Recent developments in artificial intelligence (AI) further strengthen the case for a more nuanced regulatory approach. AI-enabled ultrasound systems can assist with image acquisition and interpretation, and in some configurations generate automated reports based on pattern recognition without requiring full image storage or display. Such technologies could enable safe, purpose-specific use of ultrasound for diagnostic applications while substantially reducing the risk of misuse for foetal sex determination.

Recent research has also demonstrated the potential of AI in improving access to reliable ultrasonography. In a pilot study, portable ultrasound scans performed by individuals with minimal training were combined with AI to identify suspicious breast lesions with high accuracy, correctly flagging all confirmed cancer cases. This suggests that AI-assisted ultrasound could enable frontline health workers to assess patients with breast lumps, refer those with suspicious findings for further evaluation, and reassure those with benign conditions.

For countries such as India, where access to specialist radiologists and diagnostic imaging remains uneven, especially in rural areas where nearly 70% of the population resides, such innovations could substantially improve the timely assessment and treatment of symptomatic patients. Earlier diagnosis and referral have the potential to reduce breast cancer mortality while expanding access to care in rural and underserved areas. This contrasts with many Western countries, where breast cancer control strategies rely more heavily on mammographic screening programmes that detect tumours before symptoms appear but require considerably greater resources and infrastructure.

Serving a greater need

These technological shifts and the rising need for community-based cancer screening in view of the high cancer burden in India suggest that regulatory frameworks need to adapt to distinguish between different use cases of ultrasound. An amendment to the Act could make community-based ultrasound using a high-frequency linear probe legal, as it will not impact sex determination. Additionally, the Act should incorporate provisions addressing emerging technologies, including AI-enabled and safeguarded USG imaging systems designed to prevent the determination or disclosure of foetal sex, irrespective of intent.

(Dr. Parth Sharma is a community physician working in the department of preventive oncology and public health at Cachar Cancer Hospital and Research Centre. Dr. Senthil Kumar A.R. is a consultant radiologist and former director of the department of radiology, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, U.K. Views are personal.)

Another technical snag hits Purple Line

BMRCL says the disruption occurred due to a problem with the train's door-closing mechanism, and the issue led to a temporary halt in operations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Days after a major disruption on the Purple Line, another technical snag affected services on Thursday evening when a train developed a fault at the Cubbon Park Metro Station around 7.30 p.m., resulting in delays to multiple services and causing crowding at the station.

According to the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), the disruption occurred due to a problem with the train's door-closing mechanism. The issue led to a temporary halt in operations, affecting at least five subsequent train services and causing delays of nearly 20 minutes.

The BMRCL officials said that the train was stopped as a safety precaution after its doors failed to close properly. "As informed by the Operations Team, a temporary delay in the metro train services occurred on the Purple Line due to a technical issue wherein the doors of one train at the Cubbon Park Metro Station did not close properly. As a precautionary safety measure, commuters were safely deboarded at the station. This safety procedure took approximately 17 minutes to complete, resulting in a temporary delay to the subsequent five train services," the officials said.

People waiting at the Cubbon Park Metro Station after a temporary delay in metro train services occurred on the Purple Line due to a technical issue on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The officials said that the technical issue was rectified by the operations and maintenance teams and that normal services were fully restored across the Purple Line shortly thereafter. However, commuters caught in the disruption expressed frustration over what they described as poor communication from the BMRCL officials during the incident.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Radhika B.S., a commuter, who was travelling on the affected train, said that the passengers were left confused after being suddenly asked to deboard.

"All of a sudden, the train stopped moving at the Cubbon Park station. Within five minutes, all passengers were asked to get down. We waited for nearly 15 minutes, but there was no clear information about what was happening. As the station started getting crowded, I felt it was not safe to continue waiting. I exited the station, booked an auto and went home," she said.

Another commuter, Praveen Kumar, criticised the lack of updates from metro authorities. "We were stuck at the underground Purple Line station for around 15 minutes without any announcement or update. No officials were answering our questions regarding the cause of the delay or when services would resume. The communication from the BMRCL was pathetic. A proper safety audit should be conducted, especially regarding maintenance on the Purple Line," he said.

The latest disruption comes just days after a major technical snag on the Purple Line caused widespread inconvenience to thousands of commuters on Tuesday, raising fresh concerns about the reliability of the city's busiest metro corridor. Reacting to the incident, MP for Bengaluru Central P.C. Mohan said that recurring disruptions pointed to deeper systemic issues rather than isolated technical failures.

"The BMRCL must conduct a comprehensive technical audit, permanently fix the signalling system, and ensure accountability," he said.

He further urged the BMRCL to publish detailed root-cause analyses following every major disruption along with time-bound action-taken reports.

"Commuters deserve to know what failed, why it failed, what has been fixed, and what safeguards have been put in place to prevent recurrence," he added.

How the snag unfolded

- A Purple Line metro train developed a technical snag due to a door-closing issue at Cubbon Park Metro Station on Thursday around 7.30 p.m.
- Passengers were deboarded as a safety precaution
- The procedure took around 17 minutes, causing nearly 20 minutes of delay
- At least five subsequent train services were affected
- The disruption led to crowding at the station during the evening peak hours
- Commuters complained about a lack of announcements and communication from BMRCL
- Metro services were restored after the fault was rectified

> We were stuck at the underground Purple Line station for around 15 minutes without any announcement or update
>
> **RADHIKA B.S.**
> Commuter

Nearly 20 Namma Metro faults since 2024: Tejasvi Surya

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Nearly 20 reported technical faults and service disruptions have occurred across Bengaluru's Namma Metro network since January 2024, with the Purple Line accounting for the highest number of incidents, according to Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya.

Raising concerns over the repeated breakdowns, Mr. Surya, in an X post on Thursday, said that the issue was no longer about isolated technical glitches but pointed to a pattern that raises serious questions about the safety and reliability of metro operations.

He called for greater transparency and stronger oversight.

Mr. Surya said that he had consulted experts in metro safety and systems engineering before writing to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) with a set of recommendations aimed at improving operational safety. He also wrote to the Commissioner of Railway Safety (Southern Circle), urging the authority to take cognisance of the matter and initiate necessary measures to ensure that the BMRCL adheres to the highest standards of safety.

Tejasvi Surya

Mr. Surya's statement comes after a major disruption on the Purple Line left thousands of commuters stranded across Bengaluru. On Tuesday evening, a technical fault in the underground section near the Cubbon Park Metro Station brought train services to a halt during peak hours, causing severe inconvenience to passengers and leading to overcrowding at several metro stations which the services were restored the next day.

A glitch was reported on Thursday evening as well.

Mango farmers unhappy over Centre's assistance

Rashmi Patil
BENGALURU

After the Centre approved financial assistance for Totapuri mango, farmers in Kolar district expressed displeasure over the State and Central government's Market Intervention Price (MIP).

Following the protest by thousands of farmers in Kolar on June 22 over the low prices for Totapuri mango, the State government had sent a proposal to the Centre seeking to issue MIP to support farmers.

Meanwhile, Minister for Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy met Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Agriculture Minister, seeking financial assistance for mango farmers in Karnataka.

Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, announced the approved package by the Centre on Thursday, according to which growers of Totapuri mangoes will receive the MIP of ₹1,750 per quintal, covering procurement of up to 1.30 lakh tonnes of produce. The selling price will be decided by the committee constituted under the Chairmanship of the Principal Secretary, Agriculture Horticulture Cooperation, of the Karnataka government.

The State government has been directed to publish a list of authorised traders dealing in Totapuri mangoes under the MIS framework. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Following a protest in Kolar on June 22, the State govt. had sent a proposal to the Centre seeking to issue MIP to support farmers

However, the maximum quantum of differential payment between the MIP and selling price will be up to 25% of the MIP. It means that the State and Centre together will pay only 25% of ₹1,750 which comes down to ₹4,375 per tonne and finally ₹4.37 per kg for Totapuri mangoes. This price has upset farmers who claim that they cannot recover the money they have spent for cultivation.

Neelataru Chinappa Reddy, president, Kolar District Mango Growers' Welfare Association, said, "The State and Centre have served water instead of serving food to a hungry farmer. I urge the State and Union government to reconsider the MIP and provide us with what we asked. We demanded ₹10 per kg only for Totapuri variety and no other mango. They should have at least given us ₹8 per kg which would come up to ₹8,000 per tonne. Last year, we received ₹4.20 per kg from the State and the Centre for Totapuri. This year, they have increased 17 paise more."

Mr. Reddy added, " We will submit another memorandum to the State government and Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation Limited soon." Keeping in mind the loss to farmers who have grown Totapuri mangoes this year, the State government had recommended ₹17.50 per kg as cost of cultivation, which is ₹4.37 per kg as MSP only for this variety and sent a proposal to the Union government.

Meanwhile, the Union government has released guidelines to the State government for the implementation of MIP. The Price Deficiency Payment scheme will remain operational for one month during the marketing season. Farmers seeking benefits will be required to sell their produce through notified Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) markets in the State.

The Karnataka government has been directed to publish a list of authorised traders dealing in Totapuri mangoes under the MIS framework. Compensation for price losses will be transferred directly to eligible farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) into Aadhaar-linked bank accounts.

KPTCL can't hike supervision charges for self-executed electrical works sans KERC's approval: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has ruled that the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) lacked statutory authority to increase or revise supervision charges for self-executed electrical works without the statutory approval from the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC).

Justice Ravi V. Hosmani passed the order while allowing a petition filed by Anushka Realty Inc., which had challenged the KPTCL's June 2018 demand for payment of ₹1.02 crore as supervision charges for approving an 8459 KW power supply project, which was being undertaken under self-execution mode by the petitioner.

The petitioner had contended that the demand of ₹1.02 crore, based on a unilateral decision of the KPTCL to increase the supervision charges, violated the regulatory framework that capped such charges at ₹15 lakh.

The court rejected the KPTCL's defence that the revision was an "administrative measure", emphasising that a levy affecting consumer liability requires statutory backing.

"The levy of supervision charges affecting consumers and prescribing monetary liability cannot be regarded as purely administrative action, when Section 45 of the Electricity Act, 2003 stipulated procedure for such fixation," the court pointed out.

Citing Sections 39 to 46 of the Act, the court said these provisions of law define the KPTCL's role in transmission planning but do not confer power to determine or revise charges for supervising self-execution works. Only the KERC holds the authority to frame regulations under Section 181 of the Act, the court made it clear.

While quashing the KPTCL's demand for ₹1.02 crore, the court directed it to permit the petitioner to complete the work on self-execution basis by paying charges as per the original regulatory cap, and refund excess payment made, if any, has to be refunded with 8% interest per annum.

Karnataka aims to cut ambulance response time to 10 minutes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Health Department is working to strengthen emergency medical services under the 108 Arogya Kavacha scheme, with a focus on reducing ambulance response time and improving pre-hospital care, Health Minister U.T. Khader said on Thursday.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Khader said the existing national benchmark envisages that patients should be transported to a treatment facility within 20 minutes, often referred to as the "golden hour" framework in emergency care.

"Due to various factors, it has not always been possible to ensure this timeline in all cases. We are now introducing changes in the system with the aim of achieving a 10-minute response time, which we are referring to as the platinum hour," he said. The Minister said emergency care begins as soon as the ambulance reaches the patient and is not limited to transportation alone. Ambulances are staffed with trained nurses and technicians who can provide stabilisation and immediate medical assistance during transit.

The Minister says emergency care begins as soon as the ambulance reaches the patient and is not limited to transportation alone.
FILE PHOTO

> We are now introducing changes in the system with the aim of achieving a 10-minute response time
>
> **U.T. KHADER**
> Health Minister

Jan Aushadi centres

Responding to questions on the sale of branded medicines at Jan Aushadhi centres, Mr. Khader said such outlets were not permitted to directly market medicines of private companies outside the prescribed norms.

"Medicines sold through the Jan Aushadhi centres must comply with the standards laid down by the government and the scheme guidelines. These centres were established to make quality generic medicines available at affordable prices," he said.

The Minister cautioned against practices that could mislead consumers by selling medicines that do not conform to government standards under the guise of affordable healthcare.

"The objective of the Jan Aushadhi centres is to provide low-cost medicines to the public. There should be no attempt to exploit that trust by promoting products that are not in line with the prescribed norms," he said.

State targets 64.84 lakh children in Pulse Polio drive on June 28

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Health Department has set a target of administering Pulse Polio drops to 64.84 lakh children below the age of five years during the State-wide immunisation campaign to be held on Sunday.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, Health Minister U.T. Khader said elaborate arrangements had been made to ensure that every eligible child was covered under the programme.

A total of 36,076 vaccination booths have been identified across Karnataka for the campaign. To reach children in remote and hilly areas, the department has constituted 988 mobile teams.

U.T. Khader

In addition, 2,125 transit teams will administer polio drops at railway stations, bus stands and other public places to cover children on the move.

More than 1.14 lakh personnel have been deployed for the drive, while 7,197 supervisors have been appointed to monitor its implementation.

"We have to continue our success in the fight against polio and ensure that Karnataka remains protected from the disease," he said.

Mobile application

To help parents locate vaccination centres, the Health Department has developed the "Nearby Vaccination Centre Karnataka" mobile application, through which users can identify the nearest Pulse Polio booth.

Following the vaccination day, health workers will conduct follow-up visits to ensure that children who may have missed the campaign are also covered.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JUN. 26		
RISE	05:56	SET 18:49
RISE	15:55	SET 02:43
SATURDAY, JUN. 27		
RISE	05:56	SET 18:49
RISE	16:47	SET 03:27
SUNDAY, JUN. 28		
RISE	05:56	SET 18:49
RISE	17:39	SET 04:15

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	30	21

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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IN THE LIMELIGHT

A tribute to R.D. Burman: the pluralist who redefined film music

Fondly known as Pancham, the eminent musician and composer brought together Indian musical traditions and Western rhythms in a distinctive style. His versatile body of work remains beloved by listeners

Rajendran Narayanan
Kalyan Sundareswaran

R.D. Burman debuted as an independent composer with Chhote Nawab in 1961 and continued until his death in January 1994. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

In 1965, acoustic music orthodoxy was shaken at the Newport Folk Festival as Bob Dylan turned electric. On the other side of the Atlantic, in 1967, the Beatles released 'Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band', which created the very idea of a concept album in popular western music. Sandwiched between these seismic shifts, far away from the western shores, was a chubby, bespectacled goofy looking young man who churned the imagination of Hindi film music with the soundtrack of Nasir Hussain's *Teesri Manzil* (1966). Rahul Dev Burman or Pancham as he was fondly called, burst on the scene with eight tracks for the film that gave new meaning to the word 'revolutionary'. The title track of *Teesri Manzil*, a film reminiscent of Raymond Chandler or Dashiel Hammett style of film noir, became a long-standing template with which to score thrillers and mysteries.

Pancham died 32 years ago which is about the same span as his musical career. He debuted as an independent composer with *Chhote Nawab* in 1961 and continued until his death in January 1994. The second half of the 1980s was arguably the *nadir* for Hindi film music. Most films had a jamboree of garish clamour masquerading as music and the occasional melodic respite was largely due to Pancham. *Saagar* in 1985 had tunes spanning Goan overtones to sensuality induced by bass, flute, and tabla. Pancham aficionados would insist on the 1985 film, *Sitamgar*, as one of the more underrated masterpieces. Around the same period, Pancham's collaboration with Gulzar on albums like *Ijaazat* and *Dil Padosi Hai* (a private album) in 1987 housed a staggering range from the merry to the melancholic, rendered impeccably by Asha Bhosle. Despite such creative overtures, the period through till the early 90s saw Pancham grapple with spells of inactivity, surrender to mediocrity, plummet into intense self-doubt and wage a lonely battle with cardiac ailments. It was from this abyss of neglect and crippling despair that he conjured his final act: '1942, A Love Story'.

Death froze Pancham at exactly the right mythological moment, just when he had rediscovered his creative mojo and was on the cusp of vindication. He did not live to see the response to his last album. In death, he became the forever wounded, maverick genius who had been abandoned, and for which mass reparations were in order.

Posthumous admiration

The posthumous Pancham has perhaps had a fuller afterlife. This reclamation could be attributed to various causes. To begin with, there was a collective guilt around having driven a redoubtable artist to depression and possibly death. This lent an emotional gravity to his fandom which went beyond quotidian admiration for his craft. As India opened its economic floodgates to the world in the 1990s, satellite televisions, FM radio and a burgeoning night life created new spaces and Pancham became the soundtrack for these avenues. Soon, remixes became a booming industry. In its formative years, this industry fed on Pancham's creative capital, reincarnating him to newer listeners. Subsequently, the internet opened up an abundance of resources and made community-building easier. Fan clubs emerged, some with imaginative names like 'Burmaniacs, RDent Fan(atic)s or Panchums'.

These also opened him to investigation with a mathematical precision and a forensic zeal. Some critics have 'cancelled' him on grounds of plagiarism, sparking ruminations and debates on the very concept of originality in music and the porosity of its boundaries. Despite limitations of using contemporary parameters to evaluate historic actions, ethical concerns and artistic integrity surrounding some of the allegations remain. Arguably, it would have been prudent of Pancham to offer formal credit to some of his tracks.

However, musical traditions have evolved through a healthy mix of borrowing and conservation across generations and geographies. Assessing a three decade panoramic legacy that far transcends a miniscule fraction of infractions requires a measure of proportion. After all, who owns the copyright of the refrains of *Raga Jhinjhoti* or the tempo of *Jhaaptal*? Pancham's own demonstration in a televised interview of how S.D. Burman's *'Thandi Hawayen'* seamlessly moulds into Roshan's *'Rahe na rahe hum'* and eventually his own *'Saagar Kinaare'* is a case in point. *'Tera Mujhse Hai Pehle'* from the film *Aa Gale Lag Jaa*, said to be inspired by Elvis Presley's 'The Yellow Rose of Texas', is itself a cover of a century-old American folk song. And yet, it was Pancham's Hindi reinterpretation that became an anthem of love and longing, achieving a cult status as far away as Algeria where it came to be known as *'Janitou'* after a central refrain of the song, *'Jaane Tu Yaa Jaane Na'*.

A distinct musical signature

Perched at the intersection of melodic depth and sonic innovation, he belonged as much to the golden era pantheon of melodists like Naushad, Madan Mohan, Jaidev or Roshan as he did to the later coterie of tech-fuelled orchestrators like Bappi Lahiri. Importantly, he had to step out of the shadows of his father, the giant S.D. Burman, and create his own musical signature. This conscious defying of privilege needed conviction and courage. Neither could traditionalists disown him for being noisy nor could the modernists shun him for being bland.

His tunes, for most part, were eminently hummable even without any sonic embellishments. *'Jis Gali Mein Tera Ghar'*, rendered by Mukesh, from the 1970 superhit film *Kati Patang*, is a balmy melody which uses instruments such as the echolette, the vibraphone and the transicord to evoke the physical ripple of oars. In the Lata Mangeshkar gem, *Dilbar Dil se Pyare*, from the versatile album Caravan (1971), Pancham starts by striking wood on the brass lining of the timpani while using the rabab to give it the steamy gypsy-like texture.

His wanderlust made him a 'rooted cosmopolitan' as he seamlessly fused linear western with cyclical Indian rhythms. The sprightly Kishore Kumar solo *'Saamne Yeh Kaun Aaya'* from *Jawani Diwani* (1972) exemplifies this. Calypso-Latino in its essence, it contained the *Pedal Matka*, a custom-made instrument where the opening of an earthen pot is covered tightly with stretched leather connected to a foot pedal. This allowed the player to manually adjust the pitch and tension while drumming. While highly celebrated for his miraculous breath control adding rhythmic hefts in songs like *'Duniya Mein logon ko'*, he unfortunately remains underappreciated for his extraordinary background music.

A central feature of Pancham's music is how he incorporated a diversity of emotions and musical genres. His compositions drift from the serious *'Yun neend se woh jaane chaman'* to the comical *'Ek chatur naar'*, from the philosophical *'Tujhse Naaraz Nahin'* to the absurd *'Aa Ee Masterji ki aayi chitthi'*, from the waltz-like sacred *'Elahi tu sun le'* to the raunchy *'Aao Na Gale lagao na'*, from the wistful *'Raah pe rahte hain'* to the playful *'Kal kya hoga kisko pata'*, from the sinus-soaked Bhupinder singing the minimalist *'Ek Hi khwab'* to the elaborate medley in *Hum Kisi se Kam Nahin*. Contrary to perceptions about his predominant western tendencies, his understanding of the subcontinental musical ethos presents a vivid tapestry; from a *Raga Khamaj* based classical *'Jiya na laage mora'* to qawwalis *('Pal do pal ka saath hamaara')*, from the Bihag infused *'Piya Bawari'* to the Bhatiyali inspired *'Majhi re majhi ramaiya majhi'*.

An ambassador of pluralism

At a time when India is caving inward towards jingoistic nationalism, Pancham reminds us how to be an ambassador of pluralism. His alchemic ability to blend Indian traditions with Big Band Jazz, the Brazilian Bossa Nova, and Afro-blues liberated him from any narrow musical citizenship. His music continues to be a consummate antidote to jingoism. By democratising world music, he made global sounds accessible to every Indian at the turn of a radio knob. He broke rules not to transgress but to trailblaze. He enriched music in the breach of norms rather than their observance. Beyond its exuberance and spunk, we have many lessons to learn from Pancham - a free-spiritedness, a sense of curiosity, generosity, and a celebratory vein of secularism.

Happy 87th Pancham! As we celebrate your birthday this 27th of June, we hope to remember not just your music but for what it stood for. May your eternal resolve of pluralism prevail. May there be more fans than fanatics.

(Rajendran Narayanan is a social scientist affiliated with LibTech India. Kalyan Sundareswaran is an IT professional with Infosys. Views expressed are personal.)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the meaning of "have the blues"? (A. B. Sankaran, Vizag)
The "blues" is a kind of music; it is usually slow and sad. This type of music was first made popular by the Blacks who lived in the Southern states of America – the states where slavery was common. I understand that the original blues songs were about the lives of slaves. Nowadays, in most blues songs the singer sings about how terrible his life is or how unlucky he has been in love – not very different from our Indian film songs! When you say that you have the blues, it means that you are in a sad or depressed mood. It is also possible for one to "get the blues". Here are a few examples.

Rahul has had the blues ever since his wife walked out on him.

A wet day like today always gives me the blues.

Shanthi gets the blues whenever she watches "Love Story".

Another expression, which means more or less the same thing, is "feeling blue". If you feel blue, you feel sad.

Rainy days always make me feel blue.

I don't know why, but I am feeling blue this morning.

Which of the following sentences is correct? "Neither Mohan nor Geetha is going home", or, "Neither Mohan nor Geetha are going home". (S. Janaki, Hospet)
Careful users of the language prefer the use of the singular verb "is". In writing, you would be better off using "is". In speech, however, it is quite common to hear even native speakers use the plural "are". There is a tendency to use the plural verb in speech. This however is not considered to be grammatically correct. The verb that you use will depend on the noun which precedes it. Here are a few examples:

Neither the father nor his children were willing to go home.

Neither the children nor the father was willing to go home.

What is the difference between "biannual" and "biennial"? (E. Shyama Sundar, Madanapalle, Andhra Pradesh)
An event that is held "annually" takes place once a year. The word "bi", pronounced "by", means "two". So an event which is held "biannually" is one that is held twice a year. Here is an example.

The Chairman decided to make the Board Meeting a biannual event.

In this case, the Board will meet twice a year – perhaps every six months.

A "biennial" event, on the other hand, is one that takes place once in two years.

The Chairman decided to make the Board Meeting a biennial event.

In this case, the Board will meet once every two years.

How is the word "creche" pronounced? (P. Laxman, Secunderabad)

The first "e", which has an accent mark on it, sounds like the "e" in "set", "get" and "bet"; the second "e" remains silent. It is also possible to pronounce the first "e" like the "ay" in "day", "bay", and "say". The final "ch" sounds like the "sh" in "ship", "sheet", and "shoot". A "creche" is a place where babies are looked after while the parents are away at work.

Published in The Hindu on February 6, 2001

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On June 22, Sir Keir Starmer announced his resignation as the U.K's Prime Minister. Here's a quiz on the premiers of England

Joan Sony Cherian

QUESTION 1
Who is the only British Prime Minister who was assassinated?

QUESTION 2
This statesman's tenure as Prime Minister was overshadowed by his military prowess. He famously defeated a French Emperor in this war in 1815. Name the Prime Minister, the Emperor and the famous war.

QUESTION 3
This Prime Minister started out as journalist, specifically a war correspondent for the Morning Post. Name him.

QUESTION 4
This Prime Minister had the shortest run in Westminster, serving just 44 days. Name the Prime Minister.

QUESTION 5
The Second World War broke out with Nazi Germany invading Poland. Roughly a year back, this British Prime Minister, after talks with Hitler, had declared that "I believe it is peace for our time". Needless to say, he did not last long in office. Name him.

QUESTION 6
Which Prime Minister introduced the Indian Independence Act 1947 in the House of Commons?

Visual question: This is one of the most famous addresses in the world. Name it. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Questions and answers to the previous day's daily quiz:
1. A reimaging of James Bond from the studio behind the Hitman series. **Ans: 007 First Light**
2. The latest instalment of the long-running survival-horror franchise. You play as dual protagonists. **Ans: Resident Evil 9/Requiem**
3. This new IP from Capcom follows an astronaut and an Android youngling as they shoot, hack and fight their way through AI-driven robotic threats. **Ans: Pragmata**
4. A mountain-climbing simulator that combines stunning landscapes and engaging survival mechanics. **Ans: Cairn**
5. From the makers of Returnal, this third-person roguelite shooter is set on a shape-shifting planet. **Ans: Saros**
6. _____ is a 90s' coming-of-age narrative adventure game that chronicles the last day of summer of three high-school friends. **Ans: Mixtape**
7. This 2-D adventure game evokes retro nostalgia with its pixel-art aesthetic. **Ans: Mina the Hollower**

Visual: Identify the open-world video game title from the promotional still. **Ans: Grand Theft Auto VI**

Early birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Tom Alan Faith| Pulkit Sathe| Dodo Jayaditya| Prem Nath Tiwari

Word of the day

Fallacy:
a misconception resulting from incorrect reasoning

Synonyms: false belief

Usage: *It is a fallacy to believe that money guarantees happiness.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/fallacy

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈfæl.ə.si/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

12 arrested for robbing businessman on pretext of converting cash into cryptocurrency

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police have arrested 12 persons for allegedly robbing an entrepreneur of ₹17.64 lakh after luring him with a promise of converting the cash into a USDT cryptocurrency.

According to the police, the complainant, an entrepreneur from Devinagar in Kodigehalli, was planning to open a café on Sira Highway and was looking to import kitchen equipment and accessories from Japan or China at lower prices. He was reportedly advised that payments could be made through cryptocurrency and subsequently joined a WhatsApp group.

The probe led to the recovery of ₹13.90 lakh cash, 13 mobile phones, six two-wheelers and a car

Through the group, the entrepreneur came into contact with a man who successfully exchanged ₹2.5 lakh into USDT on June 8, gaining his confidence. The following day, the victim sought to convert ₹17.64 lakh into cryptocurrency.

The accused asked him to bring the cash to a location on Kalpana Chawla Road in Sanjay Nagar. The entrepreneur arrived with the money along with his brother and a friend. However, instead of carrying out the cryptocurrency transaction, the gang allegedly assaulted the trio and fled with the cash. Based on the complaint, the Sanjay Nagar police registered a robbery case and launched an investigation.

Following a probe, the police first detained four suspects on June 11 and subsequently identified and arrested other members of the gang.

The investigation led to the recovery of ₹13.90 lakh of the robbed cash, 13 mobile phones, six two-wheelers and a car allegedly used in the crime. Efforts are under way to find one more accused.

School dropout held for stealing silver jewellery worth ₹12.5L

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police arrested a 19-year-old school dropout for allegedly breaking into a silver ornament shop by drilling through its wall and decamping with valuables worth ₹12.5 lakh.

The accused, identified as Teja, a resident of Shankarapuram in Tamil Nadu, allegedly used a wall-cutting machine to create an opening in the wall of a shop located on Car Street in Halasuru on April 29. He then entered the premises and stole around 10 kg of silver ornaments before fleeing.

Following a complaint, the Halasuru police registered a case and launched an investigation.

By analysing CCTV footage and gathering local intelligence, the investigators identified Teja as the prime suspect and apprehended him from Shankarpuram on May 20. During interrogation, Teja allegedly confessed to the crime. He was produced before a court and taken into police custody for 20 days for further questioning.

The police said the accused had previously visited Bengaluru to meet a relative and noticed the old shop during one such visit. He later planned the theft, purchased a wall cutter, and targeted the premises at night, taking advantage of the ageing cement-brick structure.

The investigation further revealed that Teja had sold the stolen silver ornaments to a jewellery shop in Madanur, Tamil Nadu. Acting on his disclosure, the police recovered five kg of the stolen silver ornaments from the shop on June 1.

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ED raids State Excise officials, seizes assets worth ₹13.3 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru zonal office, conducted searches at 14 locations across Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Belagavi on Wednesday under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, in connection with an alleged corruption racket in the Karnataka Excise Department.

The searches were carried out following a case registered by the Karnataka Lokayukta Police against senior Excise officials for allegedly collecting favours in exchange for processing and issuing various Excise licences and amassing wealth disproportionate to their sources of income.

According to the ED, its investigation was strengthened by complaints and documents indicating that the accused laundered funds through the purchase of movable and immovable assets, benami transactions and investments in businesses operated through family members and associates. The key individuals covered during the searches include Excise officials Jagdish Nayak, K.M. Thammanna and Y.D. Manjunath, along with their family members, business partners and associates.

The ED claimed that the department functioned as an organised syndicate involving public officials, intermediaries and private individuals engaged in systematic collection and distribution of bribes.

The investigators alleged that liquor outlets paid fixed monthly bribes to field-level officers. Additional illegal payments were allegedly collected during licence renewals, transfers and issuance of fresh licences.

The money was reportedly pooled centrally and distributed through intermediaries who maintained unofficial records.

In a significant finding, the ED said several officials allegedly obtained liquor licences in the names of their family members or entities controlled by them and operated businesses indirectly.

The total proceeds of crime seized so far amount to approximately ₹13.3 crore.

Women journalists' body announces awards

BENGALURU: The Karnataka Patrakarteyare Sangha (Women Journalists' Association) has selected veteran journalist Utthara Kumari B. and Tanuja Nayak for its annual journalism awards. The awards will be presented in July.

Chalavadi writes to SEC on SIR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following an order issued by the Karnataka State Election Commission dated June 19, which announced a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls in select wards within the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council, has written to Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer V. Anbu Kumar seeking intervention over what he argued as a "parallel and conflicting" revision exercise.

In his letter dated June 25, Mr. Narayanaswamy flagged the SEC's decision to conduct a separate revision in specific GBA wards while a nationwide revision exercise ordered by the Election Commission of India (ECI) is already under way.

According to the SEC order, the Commission has decided to revise electoral rolls in select wards across three GBA corporations. This covers 23 wards in East Corporation, one ward in South Corporation, and three wards in Central Corporation.

The SEC, as per the order, took this decision after receiving objections from political parties and members of the public regarding voter lists prepared for the 2026 municipal elections.

Mr. Narayanaswamy noted that the ECI had already announced SIR for Karnataka under Phase III. As part of it, electoral rolls were frozen on June 16 to ensure uniform revision of voter data. He pointed out that the SEC's separate exercise in selected wards overlaps with the SIR, both of which involve house-to-house verification and voter roll updates within a short and overlapping timeframe.

The letter argued that this could lead to confusion among voters due to repeated verification visits and overlapping deadlines, as well as duplication of administrative effort involving Booth Level Officers and other field staff.

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Zone-02,
Bashyam Park Road, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru - 560020.

No:SADH/BCCC/ZONE-02/TENDER/PR/02/2026-27 Dated:25-06-2026

LETTER OF INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover System) (Through **GOK KPP Portal** only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Zone-02, (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites Tenders to Implement in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies/Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour Department for Maintenance of Parks. (Standard Tender Document KW-1, KW-2, KW-3 & KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Estimate Cost	EMD Amount
1	Maintenance of parks in Ramaswamypalya, Ward No-01.	598000.00	14950.00
2	Maintenance of parks in Jayamahal, Ward No-02.	1598000.00	39950.00
3	Maintenance of parks in Vasanthanagara, Ward No-03.	923000.00	23075.00
4	Maintenance of parks in Sampangiramanagara, Ward No-04.	7137000.00	142740.00
5	Maintenance of parks in Ulsoor, Ward No-08.	4033000.00	80660.00
6	Maintenance of parks in Silver Jubli Park Ward, Ward No-32.	1305000.00	32625.00
7	Maintenance of parks in D V Gundappa Ward, Ward No-34.	551000.00	13775.00
8	Maintenance of parks in Hombegowdanagara, Ward No-35.	1678000.00	41950.00
9	Maintenance of parks in BHEL Ward, Ward No-37.	1200000.00	30000.00
10	Maintenance of parks in Kanakanapalya, Ward No-38.	1352000.00	33800.00
11	Maintenance of parks in V.V. Puram, Ward No-41.	618000.00	15450.00
12	Maintenance of parks in Sunkenahalli, Ward No-42.	7115000.00	142300.00
13	Maintenance of parks in Azad Nagara, Ward No-48.	564000.00	14100.00
14	Maintenance of parks in Cottonpete, Ward No-57.	1150000.00	28750.00
15	Maintenance of parks in Nehru Nagar, Ward No-59.	5826000.00	116520.00
16	Maintenance of parks in Dattathreya Ward, Ward No-61.	643000.00	16075.00

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Date of Notification is **25-06-2026. (2)** Tender can be downloaded from **29-06-2026. (3)** Pre bid meeting on **01-07-2026** at **11:30** am. **(4)** Tender Closing date **10-07-2026** at **4:30** pm. **(5)** Technical Bid Opening Date:**13-07-2026** at **11:30** am. **(6)** Financially Bid Opening Date: **After approval of Technical Bid.**

Sd/-
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Zone-02
Bengaluru Central City Corporation

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Bommanahalli Zone-2, Bengaluru.

No. SADH/BSCC/(Z-2)/TENDER/01/2026-27 Date: 25-06-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Two Cover Tender (Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Bommanahalli Zone-2, BSCC, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BSCC invites Tenders from eligible experienced person / agencies / firms registered in GBA or Labour department for maintenance of parks as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no-18 Vishwamanava Kuvempu Ward in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 5937310, EMD: Rs. 32000
2.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no-19 New Taverekere in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amt. put to tender: Rs.1163580, EMD: Rs. 29090
3.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no-21 Chikka Adugodi in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 494060, EMD: Rs.12352.
4.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.24 A.Adugodi in Bommanahalli zone in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amt. put to tender: Rs.4696690, EMD: Rs. 23780.
5.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.26 NGV Quarters Ejipura in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli zone-2. Amt. put to tender: Rs.823010, EMD: Rs.10000.
6.	Maintenance of toilets in B.T.M Layout Assembly Constituency parks. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 400000, EMD: Rs. 10000.
7.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.27 Sri Lakshmidevi ward parks in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli zone-2. Amt. put to tender: Rs.1055480, EMD: Rs. 26387
8.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.28 Koramangala East in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli zone-2. Amt. put to tender: Rs.4436460, EMD: Rs.4830.
9.	Maintenance of Borewells in BTM Layout Assembly Constituency parks. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 6000000, EMD: Rs.7471.
10.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.30 Jakkasandra in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli zone-2. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 1461420, EMD: Rs. 36536
11.	Maintenance Of Toilets at Bommanahalli constituency in Bommanahalli Zone. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 400000, EMD: Rs. 10000.
12.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.57 Hulimavu in Bommanahalli zone-2. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 776480, EMD: Rs. 19412.
13.	Maintenance of Medians at Bannerghatta road to Saibaba temple Part-1 and 2 in ward 58 Arekere. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 210000, EMD: Rs. 5250.
14.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.61 Kodichikkanahalli in Bommanahalli zone-2 (NIGHTINGAL SCHOOL). Amt. put to tender: Rs. 474240, EMD: Rs. 11856.
15.	Maintenance of Medians at Vijaya Bank Layout to Hulimavu Krishna Kutira Hotel in Bommanahalli Constituency. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 175000, EMD: Rs. 4375.
16.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.62 Devarchikkanahalli in Bommanahalli zone-2 (bande park). Amt. put to tender: Rs. 507000, EMD: Rs. 2675.
17.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.63 Bommanahalli in Bommanahalli zone-2 (VIRAT NAGARA). Amt. put to tender: Rs. 378300, EMD: Rs.9458.
18.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.66 Singasandra in Bommanahalli Zone-2.(GOVT HOSPITAL PREMISES). Amt. put to tender: Rs. 550000, EMD: Rs. 13750.
19.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.68 ITI Park Mangammanapalya in Bommanahalli zone-2. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 429000, EMD: Rs.10725.
20.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.70 Sector-1, 28th main (FOODYS PARK) Ibbaluru in Bornmanahalli zone-2. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 2601810, EMD: Rs.52036.
21.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.72 HSR layout, in Bommanahalli Zone-2. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 10062679, EMD: Rs.150940.
22.	Maintenanace of Kaikondrahalli Lake park in ward No 107. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 594000, EMD: Rs. 14850.
23.	Maintenance of Medians at ward no.24 A. Adugodi in Bommanahalli Zone-2. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 377000, EMD: Rs. 9425.
24.	Maintenance of Medians at Hulimavu Temple road to Dental College in Bommanahalli Constituency. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 129220, EMD: Rs. 3231.
25.	Maintenance of Park at Near Namana Hotel in ward no-60 at Billekahalli in Bommanahalli Constituency. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 280000, EMD: Rs. 7000.
26.	Maintenance of Medians at RTO Besides Hotel in Bommanahalli Constituency. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 110000, EMD: Rs. 2750.
27.	Maintenance of Medians at Sathya Sai Baba to Kempegowda Circle at Bommanahalli Constituency. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 80000, EMD: Rs. 2000.
28.	Maintenance of ORR-sarjapura junction to Ibalur junction in ward No 107. Amt. put to tender: 390000, EMD: Rs. 9750.
29.	Maintenance of Ambalee Pura park at Bellandure ward area in ward No 107. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 196840, EMD: Rs. 4921.
30.	Maintenance of Medians at Opposite Central Jail Part-1,1 and 3 in ward no-66 Singasandra at Bommanahalli Constituency. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 280000, EMD: 7000.
31.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no-17 N.S.Palya in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli Zone. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 2075910, EMD: 41518.
32.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.22 Rashtra Kavi Kuvempu (Saddagunte palya) Park in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amt. put to tender: Rs.3903200, EMD: 78064.
33.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.29 Koramangala West in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli zone-2. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 6763890, EMD: Rs. 135278.
34.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.53 Jaraganahalli in Bommanahalli zone-2. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 1344400, EMD: Rs. 33610.
35.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.58 Arakere in Bommanahalli zone-2. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 1060980, EMD: Rs. 26525.
36.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.65 Garvebavipalya Mico layout in Bommanahalli zone-2. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 520000, EMD: Rs.13000.
37.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.69 Hosapalya Horticulture Faram Park in Bommanahalli zone-2. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 1600000, EMD: Rs. 40000.
38.	Maintenance of Haraluru Lake in ward no 107. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 638000, EMD: Rs. 15950.
39.	Maintenance of Sarajapura Road Median in ward No 107. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 495000, EMD: Rs. 12375.
40.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.25 National 40 Games Village in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 1189000, EMD: Rs. 29725.
41.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.71 Agara in Bommanahalli zone-2. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 4787820, EMD: Rs. 95756.
42.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.64 HONGASANDRA NEAR GRAVE YARD in Bommanahalli zone-2. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 124880, EMD: Rs. 3122.
43.	Maintenance of Medians at Madiwala Market ward no.20 in Bommanahalli Constituency. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 286000, EMD: Rs. 7150.
44.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.67 Singasandra, in Bommanahalli Zone-2.(NEAR HIGHT TENSION LINE). Amt. put to tender: Rs. 241500, EMD: Rs. 6038.
45.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no-20 Madivala in BTM Constituency at Bommanahalli Zone -2. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 373526, EMD: Rs. 9338.
46.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.56 Doresani Palya in Bommanahalli zone-2. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 3794540, EMD: Rs. 75891.
47.	Maintenance Of BOREWLL in Bommanahalli Assembly Constituency parks. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 5000000, EMD: Rs.100000.
48.	Maintenance of Medians at Lake Road to Fire Engine Road in Bommanahalli Constituency. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 67200, EMD: Rs.1680.
49.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.59 Vijaya Bank Layout in Bommanahalli zone-2. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 4004510, EMD: Rs. 80090.
50.	Maintenance Of Parks in ward no.60 Billekahalli Vijaya bank colony, in Bommanahalli zone-2 (KAVERAMMA TEMPLE). Amt. put to tender: Rs. 497250, EMD: Rs. 12431.
51.	Maintenance of Kasavanahalli Lake park in Ward No 107. Amt. put to tender: Rs. 563750, EMD: Rs. 14094.

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 29.06.2026. (2)** Date of pre-bid meeting : **02.07.2026. (3)** Date of tender closing : **10.07.2026 at 4.00 pm. (4)** Date of opening of Technical bid: **13.07.2026 at 11.30 am. (5)** Date of opening of Financial bid : **After approval of technical bid.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture
Bommanahalli Zone-2, BSCC

Government of Karnataka
(Infrastructure Development, Ports & Inland Water Transport Department)
Karnataka Maritime Board
Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Karnataka Maritime Board, Karwar

KMB/ADM/MMD/1/2026-MMD-Part(6) (E-299186) Date: 23-06-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO INLAND VESSEL CREW

Under the Inland Vessels Act, 2021 and the Karnataka Inland Vessel Rules, 2025, all existing crew serving on inland vessels must compulsorily convert their certificates as per the new rules on or before 06.06.2027. Two training programmes are being conducted for this purpose at the Karwar Training Centre :

Notice	Crew Concerned	Fee	Training Period
Notice – 1 (Revalidation Course)	Serang, First/Second Class Master, First/Second Class Engine Driver, Engineer	Rs. 7,500/-	13.07.2026 to 25.07.2026
Notice – 2 (GP Rating Conversion)	Deck Hand, Engine Hand, Lascar, Greaser, Cook	Rs. 10,000/-	13.07.2026 to 08.08.2026

Download Application Form: The application form may be downloaded from the following link : https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/115QsdZCWwKc-mJmhbePNvjfLTrx8MQLy
Last date to apply: 06.07.2026. Eligible candidates must submit the filled-in application along with their existing certificate, identity proof, service record, medical certificate and recent photographs by e-mail to directoratep@gmail.com, or in person / by post to the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Karnataka Maritime Board, Baithkol, Karwar – 581302. For further information, Contact : 9845705076. Crew who do not convert within the stipulated period will not be permitted to serve on inland vessels.

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/230/26-27 dt. 24.06.2026

Sd/- Director,
Ports and Member
(Maritime & IWT Operation)
Karnataka Maritime Board, Karwar

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Sarvajnanagara Division, 9th C Main,
HRBR Layout, 1st Block. Kalyannagara Bengaluru - 560 043

No:EE/SGN/KPPP/TEND/04/2026-27 Date: 25-06-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer (Sarvajnanagara Division), BNCC Zone-1, Bengaluru. on behalf of the Commissioner, BNCC invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Greater Bengaluru Authority or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD /Railways/MES/ National Highway or any State Government Organizations. For the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1.	**(PACKAGE-01)** Comprehensive Development of roads, drains and Footpath in 8th Main, HRBR Layout, 1st Block and approach Roads 6th Cross Maruthi Layout, 1st Cross and Cross Roads of Prakruthi Layout, 3rd, 4th, 9th and 10th Cross Telecom Layout, Chikkanna Layout Cross Roads, Byraweshwara Layout 2A, 2nd Main Road Secondary drain at Nagawara Village, Mattkar Main Road 1st to 6th Cross, 2nd & 3rd Block HBR Layout, 1st A Main Road and Cemitry Road, 16th to 21st Cross Roads, Yaseen Nagar 10th Cross Roads, Brindavana Nagar, Yaseen Nagar, SWD Service Road Hennur Main Road, Shanimahathma Temple 4th Cross Roads, 3rd Cross, 1st A, 1st B, Cross Roads, 10th Main 7th Main Road HBR Layout 4th Block HBR Layout, 9th Main Road 10th, 11th Cross Roads 4th Block HBR Layout, from 6th, 7th, 8th Cross Roads 4th Block HBR Layout, Budda Shaila Layout Cross Road and Sub Cross Roads Near Ashok Legends Apartments of Ward No 32 Banasawadi & 31 Kalyana Nagara , 23 Hennur, 24 HBR Layout (Anubanda-04, GO No:38,40,41,42,43) **Estimated Cost: ₹.1000.00 Lakhs, EMD : ₹.15,00,000.00, (1.00 lakh through e- payment balance ₹ 14,00,000.00 through BG/FDR should be submitted before opening of Technical bid.**
2.	**(PACKAGE-02)** Comprehensive Development of roads, drains and Footpath in 2nd Main, 9th Cross and sub Cross Roads of Kuppuswamy Layout, Sub Cross Roads of Nagawara Village, 1st, 2nd and Cross Roads of Yellamma temple street, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th Cross of Byrankunte 1st,2nd & 3rd Cross Govindapura Main Road, Behind Hanifia Masjid, 8th,11th,18th Cross Rashad Nagar & Byrappa Layout AMC Main Road, 1st, 2nd Cross Basava Nagar & 1st, 2nd Main Road Gandhi Nagar, 10th Cross Vinobha Nagar, & Sub Cross Road, 1st Main Cross, BM Layout, Hidayathnagar, Mukthinagara Sub Cross Roads at Ward No-22 Nagawara, 25-Govindapura, 26-Samadhananagara & Ward No-27 K.G.Halli (Anubanda-04, GO No:39,44,45 and 46) **Estimated Cost: ₹.1000.00 Lakhs, EMD : ₹.15,00,000.00, (1.00 lakh through e- payment balance ₹ 14,00,000.00 through BG/FDR should be submitted before opening of Technical bid.**
3.	**(PACKAGE-03)** Comprehensive Development of roads, drains and Footpath in Pillana Garden, Telegraph Street, PNT Colony, in Ramachandra Layout, KSFC Layout, Grance Garden, Thipanna Layout, Subash Layout, Lakshmipathy Layout, and Kammanahalli Main Road, 2nd Block HBR Layout, 3rd Block HRBR Layout PNS Layout, AK Colony, Ashwathappa Layout, 2nd A,B,C,D,E Cross Roads HRBR 2nd Block in Ward No. 30-Kacharakanahalli, 31 -Kalyana Nagara & 28 Venkateshpura, 29-Lingarajapura (Anubanda-04, GO No:47,48,49,50) **Estimated Cost: ₹.1000.00 Lakhs, EMD : ₹.15,00,000.00, (1.00 lakh through e- payment balance ₹ 14,00,000.00 through BG/FDR should be submitted before opening of Technical bid.**
4.	**(PACKAGE-04)** Comprehensive Development of roads, drains and Footpath in Annaereddy Layout, Gopal Reddy Layout, Krishna Reddy Layout, HRBR 1st Block, OMBR Layout 8th cross road near oil mill road, Indira Street, Kammanahalli Village, Narayanappa Road to Muniswamappa Road, Narayanappa Road and Cross Roads Near Anganawadi, Muniswamappa Road, Near RS Palya Village Park & Krishnappa Layout, A, B Block Janikiram Layout, Gundappa Mutt Road, Krishnappa Layout, Munithayappa Layout, Kanakadasa Layout Near Star World Bakery to Shadashiva Temple Road, Near KHB Quarters in Ward 32-Banasawadi, 33 HRBR Layout, 34 - Subbaiahanapalya & Ward No- 35 Kammanahalli (Anubanda-04, GO No:51,52,53 & 54) **Estimated Cost: ₹.1000.00 Lakhs, EMD : ₹.15,00,000.00, (1.00 lakh through e- payment balance ₹ 14,00,000.00 through BG/FDR should be submitted before opening of Technical bid.**
5.	**(PACKAGE-05)** Comprehensive Development of roads, drains and Footpath in 7th to 16th Cross Roads Jaibharath Nagar, Mariamma Temple Road, Vivekananda Nagar Cross Roads, D'costa Layout, Balaji Layout, Lingarapura Village AK Colony, KR Garden, Nanjundappa Garden, Heerachand Layout, Nagainapalya Cross Roads, Satyanagar Cross Roads Secondary drain at Railway Parallel Road and KSFC Layout in Ward No.29 Lingarajapura, 36 Maruthi Seva Nagara, 37 Jeevanahalli & Ward No.22 Nagawara (Anubanda-04, GO No:55,56,57 & 58) **Estimated Cost: ₹.1000.00 Lakhs, EMD : ₹.15,00,000.00, (1.00 lakh through e- payment balance ₹ 14,00,000.00 through BG/FDR should be submitted before opening of Technical bid.**
6.	**(PACKAGE-06)** Comprehensive Development of roads, drains and Footpath in 5th, 8th, 9th, 10th Cross, Mehaboob Nagar and VHBCS Layout, Chikka Gulappa Cross Road, Noorani Masjid, Grape Garden, Nanjuppa Layout Cross Roads, 5th Block, 20th,21st,22nd Cross Roads Karnataka Bank 4th Block, CMR Garden, 8th ,9th Cross 5th,6th Main 3rd Block HBR Layout, 1st Cross Zafrulla Layout, 1st,2nd,3rd & 4th Cross New Nobel School, 9th,10th,11th Cross Roads 4th Cross Road Noor Masjid Roads in Ward No.22 Nagawara , 23 Hennur,24 -HBR Layout, 25 Govindapura (Anubanda-04, GO No:59,60,61,62) **Estimated Cost: ₹.1000.00 Lakhs, EMD : ₹.15,00,000.00, (1.00 lakh through e- payment balance ₹ 14,00,000.00 through BG/FDR should be submitted before opening of Technical bid.**
7.	**(PACKAGE-07)** Comprehensive Development of roads, drains and Footpath in Chuna Lane & Shampura Main Road , Makka Masjid Main Road & Cross Roads, Railway Parellel Roads, Back Side of EWS Quarters, Back Side of Primary Health Care Center Mariamma Temple Surrounding Area, Cross Roads of Arokyamma Layout, PNT Colony& Pillanna garden Main Road, Sait Palya, Kariyana Palya, 1st to 7th Cross Siddartha School Roads a in Ward No.29 Lingarajapura, 26 Samadhanangara, 27 KG Halli, 28 Venkateshapura. (Anubanda-04, GO No:63,64,65,66) **Estimated Cost: ₹.900.00 Lakhs, EMD : ₹.13,50,000.00, (1.00 lakh through e- payment balance ₹ 12,50,000.00 through BG/FDR should be submitted before opening of Technical bid.**
8.	**(PACKAGE-08)** Comprehensive Development of roads, drains and Footpath in Ramaiah Layout, Valmiki road 10th Cross Yellamma Road, Aralimara Road, 7th A Main HRBR Layout 2nd Block, Chairman Layout, 1st A, 1st B Cross HRBR Layout 1st Block Lakshmamma Layout, Chandramma Layout, Green Park Layout, 8th A,B,C,D Cross Roads, 1st Block HRBR Layout, Bhuvanagiri, Seethamma Road, Kallama Road, Chinnappa Road, Netaji Road, Vinayaka Road, Sampanna Road in Ward No.33- HRBR Layout, 30-Kacharkanahalli, 31- Kalyana Nagara, 32-Banasawadi. (Anubanda-04, GO No:67,68,69 & 70) **Estimated Cost: ₹.1000.00 Lakhs, EMD : ₹.15,00,000.00, (1.00 lakh through e- payment balance ₹ 14,00,000.00 through BG/FDR should be submitted before opening of Technical bid.**
9.	**(PACKAGE-09)** Comprehensive Development of roads, drains and Footpath in Aralimara Road, Subbaiahnapalya Village, Panchmukhi Temple Patel Nanjundappa Road, Munnegowda Road, Delhi Narayanappa Road, 6th Cross Jai Bharath Nagar, Cooke Town, Ashoka Road, North Road, Saddamappa Garden, Muniverappa Lane, Ananthram Layout Krishnappa Lane Road Near Jeevanahalli Sports Complex, Muniga Layout, Jeevanahalli Cross Roads and Surrounding Area in Ward No.37 Jeevanahalli 34, Subbaiahnapalya , 35 Kammanahalli, 36 Maruthi Seva Nagar (Anubanda-04, GO No:71,72,73 & 74) **Estimated Cost: ₹.1000.00 Lakhs, EMD : ₹.15,00,000.00, (1.00 lakh through e- payment balance ₹ 14,00,000.00 through BG/FDR should be submitted before opening of Technical bid.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **08-07-2026**, **4:00** pm. (2) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **01-07-2026** at **3:00** pm (3) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders is **08-07-2026**, **4:00** pm. (4) Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid is **09-07-2026**, **4:30** pm. (5) Date &Time for Opening of Financial Bid (Will be intimated after obtaining approval for Technical Evaluation)

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Sarvajnanagara Division, Zone-1, BNCC

CBSE's Kaushal Vikas mandate puts schools in a fix

CBSE, under its NCF-SE, has introduced Kaushal Vikas (Vocational education) as a mandatory subject for class IX students, rather than keeping it optional

Rashmi Patil
BENGALURU

After the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) made Kaushal Vikas (Vocational Education) mandatory for class IX students after the 2026-27 academic year began, many schools in Bengaluru have expressed concern at its ramifications .

Kaushal Vikas has been developed in alignment with the vision of the National Education Policy 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023. FILE PHOTO

Skill education

Kaushal Vikas, the textbook for Skill Education for Grade IX, has been developed in alignment with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023. The CBSE, under its NCF-SE, has introduced Kaushal Vikas as a mandatory subject for class IX students, rather than keeping it optional. The same will continue when these class IX students move to class X for the academic year 2027-28, and the marks will be included in the board exams.

The principal of a CBSE school on Sarjapura Road, said, "In our school, we plan the finance and budget in October and November for the next academic year. We hire teachers for the vacant posts after many rounds of interviews and a lot of scrutiny. An academic calendar and lesson plans are assigned to respective subject teachers even before the school begins. We received the circular a few days ago and we are still figuring out who has to be recruited to teach the Kaushal Vikas subject. We must also include it in our weekly timetable and adjust it as per the total number of hours of teaching." Another principal of a CBSE school in Yelahanka, said, "Students will be in trouble because they choose what career they would like to pursue and start preparing for various competitive exams like NEET, JEE, CET and others at this stage. Adding one more mandatory subject is a burden . We already run 14 various clubs that teach students, innovation, public speaking, art and theatre and others. But scoring marks was never mandatory . These clubs were handled by the respective subject teachers."

Meanwhile, the principal of a CBSE school in Padmanabha Nagar questioned the abrupt announcements of the CBSE board, "All the CBSE schools in Bengaluru must come together on a single forum and write to the CBSE in the larger interest of students. To teach Kaushal Vikas, the CBSE states that a Skill Education Teacher would ideally be required. But it might not be feasible to immediately appoint multiple teachers with different specialisations. Do you think schools have time to go in search of external resource persons who can teach agriculture, pottery, tailoring and ask them to train our teachers? Our teachers already have enough academic work to focus on. When they can find time to learn vocational courses?"

What is in the Kaushal Vikas textbook?

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kaushal Vikas textbook includes three units and there are four chapters under each unit:

Work with life forms, Work with machines and materials and Work in Human Services. Under the Work with life forms, the chapters include all types of agriculture practised in India, cultivation of crops, terrace gardening. In the Work with machines and materials, the chapters include tailoring, packaging and shipping of stitched clothes and textiles. The Work in Human Services includes healthcare, tourism, personal and lifestyle services, food processing, pottery among others.

Each child has to select one or two vocation from each unit, form groups based on the vocation, work on the vocation within the stipulated time and present it to their teachers in the presence of other classmates in their schools.

The total time allotted to the Vocational Education is 110 hours or 132 periods in one academic year, excluding time for assessment, school events, and similar activities. These periods may be distributed across the week; the total number of periods per week is five.

Mode of Assessment

In a total of 100 marks, paper-pencil test is given 25% weightage, the demonstration and oral presentation/ viva is given 20%, site visit report/observation notes 5%, portfolio of student and their project is assigned 30% and teachers' observations 20%.

NCERT denies ideological bias in Class 6 textbook

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) issued a clarification on Thursday on the controversy over naming Class 6 Kannada R3 Textbook "Krishna", while also rejecting allegations that the book promotes any religious or cultural ideology. It also claimed that Chapter 6 of the textbook does not promote vegetarianism, but promotes "healthy food habits."

This statement came after a group of educationists and organisations in Karnataka alleged that naming the textbook "Krishna" reflects cultural and ideological bias and the content related to food showed a bias against non-vegetarian food.

In its statement, NCERT clarified, "With regard to the title of the textbook, it is to be stated that NCERT has named its language

NCERT claims that Chapter 6 of the textbook does not promote vegetarianism, but 'healthy food habits'

textbooks, including R3 language textbooks, after rivers of India. The title of the book "Krishna" is after the Krishna River... It is to be noted that the Hindi textbook has been named as "Ganga", the English textbook has been named as "Kaveri", and the Urdu textbook "Jamuna" (Yamuna)."

With regards to the allegation of textbook promoting vegetarianism in chapter 6, Health is Wealth, NCERT said, "It is clearly mentioned in the introductory note that for good health, a balanced diet, exercise and cleanliness are essential. The illustrative image given on page 63 includes both vegetarian and non-vegetarian food items. Nowhere in the textbook is vegetarianism explained or justified, nor is non-vegetarian food opposed. The purpose of the chapter is to create awareness about healthy food items."

However, illustrative image consists only fruits, vegetables, cereals, pulses and eggs. There is no illustration of meat or fish.

Condemning the statement released by NCERT, Kannada Development Authority (KDA) Chairman Purushotham Bilimale and others have released a counter-statement. "According to our food culture, a balanced diet includes non-vegetarian food, but this is not mentioned or said clearly anywhere in the NCERT textbook. In the picture on page 63 that NCERT mentioned, there is no picture representing fish, meat or other non-vegetarian food."

They further said that they "did not expect NCERT to give such a false explanation."

Five drown in the Cauvery at Muthathi

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Five persons, including four women related to one other, drowned in the Cauvery river near Muthathi in Mandya district of Karnataka on Wednesday evening. The deceased have been identified as Vijayamma, 50, her daughter Priyanka, 28, Vijayamma's sister-in-law Shwetha, 38, Shwetha's daughter Chaitra, 20, and Mahesh, the driver of the car they travelled in.

Shwetha's husband Ravi, a native of Channapatna, but residing in Srinivasa Nagar in Bengaluru, had hired a car from Bengaluru to visit Muthathi with his relatives on Wednesday. After offering prayers at the temples in Channapatna and Muthathi, the women in the group went for a dip in the Cauvery river adjoining the temple in Muthathi in the evening.

While Mr. Ravi, the four-year-old son of Priyanka and the driver Mahesh stayed on the banks, the four women entered the waters apparently to take photographs.

Warning ignored

Superintendent of Mandya district police V. J. Shobha Rani, said the four women ignored the warning given by the home guards stationed at the spot against venturing into the river . The river can be treacherous and signage boards warning people against entering the waters too have been erected on the river bank. "The incident appears to have taken place due to carelessness" she added. Ms. Shobha Rani said Vjayamma was the first to lose her balance after being unable to make out the depth at a particular spot in the river. When she started drowning, the other women tried to rescue her, but they also drowned in the waters.

Ravi as well as Mahesh, who were on the banks, too jumped into the waters after hearing their cries. While Mahesh drowned in the water, Ravi was saved by local fishermen, said the SP. Personnel from Fire and Emergency Services recovered the bodies, which were taken to a mortuary at Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences (MIMS) in Mandya. Deputy Commissioner of Mandya Kumar, who visited the mortuary on Thursday, said an average of four to five drowning incidents were taking place every year at the same spot in the Cauvery river at Muthathi.

Though signboards had been erected and home guards posted at the post, such drowning incidents are taking place due to carelessness, he said.

Resolve issues faced under MGNREGS: State to Centre

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

Ahead of the roll-out of the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin), 2025 (VB-GRAM G), which is proposed to replace the MGNREGS, the Karnataka government has requested the Union government to address the digital attendance-related issues faced under the existing scheme so that the same problems are not carried forward into the new framework.

Pending funds

The State has also sought clarity on the coverage of gram panchayats under the Act and requested the release of nearly ₹700 crore pending funds.

Since the introduction of the National Mobile Monitoring System app for attandance under MGNREGS, workers have reported difficulties due to poor mobile network connectivity.

Since the introduction of the National Mobile Monitoring System app for attendance under the MGNREGS, workers have repeatedly reported difficulties due to poor mobile network connectivity. In many cases, workers were unable to mark their attendance on time, resulting in wage delays or loss of wages.

"There were multiple issues related to digital attendance, including difficulties in updating attendance and downloading muster rolls," Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar Khandre said.

He added that initially, more than ₹1,000 crore was pending from the Centre.

"While around 30% of the amount has been released towards labour payments, material costs amounting to approximately ₹700 crore are yet to be released," Mr. Khandre said.

The State has also sought clarity on the powers and limitations of gram panchayats under the proposed framework.

Village development

Under VB-GRAM G, gram panchayats will continue to prepare village development plans.

However, their flexibility in deciding local priorities could be reduced, as planning would need to align with broader national development goals set by the Centre. Even if an urgent local requirement is identified, the work may have to fall within the approved categories under the scheme before it can be taken up.

Karnataka was also among the States advised by the Union government to prioritise the implementation of DBT-SPARSH – the Direct Benefit Transfer component under the Single Nodal Agency Samyochit Pranali Ekikrit Shighra Hastantaran – to enable faster and more direct payments.

Required preparations

Mr. Khandre confirmed that the State is ready and has completed the required preparations.

Under DBT-SPARSH, government funds are transferred directly to beneficiaries through a centralised digital platform to bypass the need for funds to pass through multiple layers of government accounts.

Mount Carmel College becomes Deemed-to-be-University

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru-based Mount Carmel College (Autonomous) has been accorded Deemed-to-be-University status by the Ministry of Education, the institution announced on Thursday.

Addressing the media on the development, principal George Lekha said that the college has acquired 200 acres of land near Devanahalli.

"The courses will be expanded, with the institution offering short-term, medium-term, and long-term programmes. The new facility is expected to be a residential campus," she said.

Ms. Lekha confirmed that the institution would also continue to offer programmes on the Vasanth

A view of Mount Carmel College in Vasantnagar. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Nagar campus and assured that there would be no disruption for the current batch. She added that discussions regarding credit transfers and other academic matters are ongoing.

The college would also hold a meeting with parents in this regard on June 27, she said.

The development comes two years after the college opened all its undergraduate and postgraduate programmes to boys in 2024, ending its over 70-year run as an all-girls institution. It currently offers 54 undergraduate programmes, 18 postgraduate programmes, and 11 doctoral programmes.

National coalition demands unconditional implementation of Women's Reservation Act

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Coalition for Women's Reservation (NCWR) and Naveddu Niladiddare, Karnataka, held a public consultation where concerns were expressed over the weaponisation and delayed implementation of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam or the Women's Reservation Act, 2023.

"While the struggle for 33% representation in Parliament and State Assemblies has been fought for nearly three decades, the current form of the Act serves as an empty promise rather than immediate empowerment. By explicitly linking the implementation of women's reservation to the completion of a future Census and the contentious process of delimitation, the Union government has effectively put women's political rights on an indefinite hold," said a statement issued after the consultation.

A roundtable on women's reservation being held on Thursday.

The coalition members pointed out that the government attempted to rush a gazette notification linking the 2023 Act to a slew of centralising legislation, including the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, and sought to do so through decoupling it from the post-2026 Census and expanding the total number of seats in the Lok Sabha.

With the monsoon session approaching, the collective has launched a Statewide public consultation and a massive signature campaign. A delegation will meet the Chief Minister and other government representatives to demand a clear resolution in the upcoming session to pass the Act without any conditions.

"We are calling upon all MPs and MLAs from Karnataka to step up, break the silence, and demand an informed, rigorous debate to amend the Act," the members said in the statement.

The demand will be made to ensure a participatory and inclusive process for identifying the 33% women's seats.

Involve States

"The identification of reserved seats must not be a centralised exercise. It must involve States, communities, and women's organisations, while ensuring meaningful representation of the most marginalised women - including Dalit, Adivasi, OBC, minority women, transwomen, and other marginalised genders," said the statement.

"Models for determining women's representation already exist within the decentralised framework established by the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments of the Panchayati Raj Act. Taking this as a foundation, efforts must be made to expand and reform this framework to ensure it extends to and encompasses religious minorities, gender and sexual minority communities, and all other marginalised groups," it further pointed out.

Gone, but not forgotten: Filmmakers unanimously accept that the passing of Puneeth Rajkumar has dealt a huge blow to the industry as his movies gave the vibe of a wholesome family drama that the entire household would not want to miss. K. MURALI KUMAR

Where are Kannada cinema's next stars?

Kannada cinema still leans heavily on its tried-and-true male heroes and familiar storylines. It's time for the industry to embrace a new generation of talent that reflects its vibrant, diverse audience, writes **Vivek M.V.**

On a Monday afternoon (June 23, 2026), several shows in Bengaluru were filling fast for the Samantha Ruth Prabhu starrer *Maa Inti Bangaaram*. This kind of response on the first weekday after the opening weekend is something any Kannada hero would give his right arm for.

Fans are praising Samantha as the "Lady Superstar." The Telugu film is reported to have crossed ₹50 crore at the worldwide box office. The question of why Kannada has fewer female-led movies has no clear answer, as the industry continues to underutilise several gifted female performers.

'Macho protagonists'

"I see fewer stories from a woman's perspective in Kannada. I continue to see macho protagonists," actor-politician Ramya, a bankable star in the 2000s, had often expressed her concern.

Malashree, who entertained a generation with her action-oriented role, will be seen in a movie also starring Rukmini Vasanth, the latest sensation in Indian cinema. The movie, bankrolled by KVN Productions, the makers of Vijay's *Jana Nayagan*, could be a relief from the "hyper masculine" stories in the Kannada film industry.

While we wait for the emergence of strong female-led films in Kannada, the last couple of months have reiterated an even more basic dark truth: local audiences have become far more receptive to stars from neighbouring industries. For example, *Peddi*, starring Ram Charan, released on June 5, 2026, went on to become a blockbuster, with impressive performance in Bengaluru.

The relatively small pool of stars in Kannada cinema, compared to other film industries, has added to the challenges faced by an industry.

"It's like the Tenali Raman and the cat story," director Tharun Sudhir (*Kaatera, Roberrt)* tells *The Hindu*. "He gave the cat piping hot milk. On seeing the milk next time, it ran away, thinking it was being given hot milk. Similarly, the industry consistently produced poor content, leading several film buffs to lose trust in Kannada movies."

> The industry consistently produced poor content, leading several film buffs to lose trust in Kannada movies
>
> **THARUN SUDHIR,** Director

Young actors need support

That said, Tharun wants the Kannada audience to be more welcoming of new actors aiming big in the industry. *Mango Pachcha*, the debut of actor Sanchith Sanjeev, nephew of superstar Kichcha Sudeep, had all the ingredients of an engaging crime drama. It was an unconventional launch, with no typical hero-introduction song or punch dialogues. The character-driven movie had enough scope for all actors to shine.

Apart from the moniker 'Jr Kichcha', the movie didn't seem like a forceful attempt to capitalise on Sudeep's legacy. "Throughout the movie, we were conscious that we would not show any scene that makes me look like a star. Because if I need to appear like a star, I need to have a certain kind of aura around me. I am building my reputation and still getting introduced to the Kannada audience. If I start behaving like a star too soon, the audience will write me off," he tells *The Hindu*.

Sanchith's sensible words, positive reviews from those who saw it in the first week, or critical acclaim, nothing helped *Mango Pachcha* attain box office success. The movie once again called attention to Kannada audiences' resistance to watching their own movies in cinemas, especially those starring new actors. *Peddi,* which was released on the same day as *Mango Pachcha,* enjoyed good footfall, despite mixed reviews and a controversy involving the objectification of Jahnvi Kapoor, the female lead.

Compared to their Telugu counterparts, Kannada stars have had long gaps between their projects. Yash, who last starred in *KGF: Chapter 2* in 2022, will be making his big-screen return after more than four years with *Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups,* on August 26, 2026. Rakshit Shetty has not announced his next project after featuring in the acclaimed relationship drama *Sapta Sagaradaache Ello Side B* in 2023. There will be no Sudeep release in 2026.

The reasons for stars featuring in fewer projects range from personal choices to stop-start plans. "If you love your profession, you need to take a break to feel fresh and get back to it. Cinema is a creative field, and you may go blank sometimes. I will not plan my career based on how another actor's career is shaping up. I have no such insecurity," Sudeep had told *The Hindu* ahead of his movie *Max* (2025).

No justification can satisfy fans. Frustrated by the lack of updates about Sudeep's projects, the actor's fans planned a "Wake Up Sudeep" campaign on X. The development forced Sudeep to clarify the status of his upcoming movies.

Director Suri's debut *Duniya,* the raw crime drama, made Vijay an overnight star. Eight years later, when he made the gripping road thriller *Kendasampige* with two newcomers (Vikky Varun and Manvitha Kamath), the director famously remarked that he could even make a coconut-seller a hero, a statement that reflected his confidence in his storytelling rather than star power.

"When I think about offbeat stars, Shankar Nag is the first actor who comes to mind. There was something about him that gave us hope about cinema. It was inspiring to see him say yes to roles that were considered risky for stars," says Suri. According to the filmmaker, Raj B. Shetty is the last star yet to fully earn the audience's trust in Kannada cinema.

"What he did with *Garuda Gamana VrIshabha Vahana* (2021) was so special that it gave me the creative high I got when I read my favourite books, such as *Kusuma Bale* and *Karvalo*. He is here to stay despite some slip-ups because he has earned the backing of people," Suri reasons.

Industry insiders feel cinema has moved beyond stars. What does the gigantic success of *Obsession* tell us? It shows people are interested in films that give them an experience and not just entertain. Kannadigas are flocking to theatres to watch this horror sensation. The movie earned the most in Karnataka compared to the rest of the screenings across the country.

Blind pan-India chase

The success of the *KGF* and *Kantara* films helped Kannada filmmakers access a wider market and gain national visibility. "But did we utilise the platform set by those movies? No," says Suri.

There was a noticeable rush among producers to chase the pan-India trend, often funding mediocre scripts in the process. Dhruva Sarja decided to take his stardom beyond Sandalwood and failed, delivering three forgettable movies: *Pogaru, Martin,* and *KD.* Upendra's attempt with *Kabzaa* and *UI* did not yield the expected results.

Filmmakers unanimously accept that the passing of Puneeth Rajkumar has dealt a huge blow to the industry. "His movies gave the vibe of a wholesome family drama that the entire household would not want to miss," opines Suri.

Director Pawan Wadeyar, who worked with Puneeth in *Rana Vikrama* (2015) and *Natasaarvabhowma* (2019), says he was never conscious or obsessed with his star image. "If he were, he wouldn't have done a social drama such as *Mythri* (2015)," says Pawan.

For producers and cinema owners, a despondent atmosphere in the 'B' & 'C' centres is an alarm bell. Darshan is one of the most dependable stars in the Kannada industry, with his fandom spreading across regions of the state. With him in prison in a murder case and no clarity on his future, it's not happy news for many stakeholders in the industry.

Malayalam vs. Kannada

Amid a low turnout for Kannada movies, Vijay Raghavendra has quietly delivered an "OTT hit". The actor's *Second Case of Seetharam* did decent, if not extraordinary, business in theatres. It was a different story altogether when the movie dropped on Prime Video. "So far, the movie has crossed 150 million streaming minutes," informs Pawan, who presented the movie.

Second Case of Seetharam is a rare exception of a Kannada movie doing well on OTT and this is a welcome development for the industry.

"OTT platforms have shown me the data of people from Karnataka watching Malayalam content over anything else," points out Tharun.

Malayalam thrillers are red-hot favourites for binge-watchers on OTT. "It's reached a stage where if we see a Malayalam film poster featuring a cop, it's given that it will do well." Tharun's claim isn't an exaggeration, considering how *Dridam,* the recent cop thriller, has performed on OTT after being a theatrical flop in Kerala. The movie is one of the most discussed among the Kannada crowd on social media.

With no cushion of a sure-shot OTT deal, Kannada directors are left with the option of achieving theatrical success. The likes of Ganesh and Duniya Vijay had a dream start to their careers, setting box office records. If only they had chosen better scripts, they would have been a better box office prospect than they are today. When established stars fail to evolve with changing audience tastes, viewers naturally begin looking for fresh faces. The Malayalam film industry offers a striking example of this shift, with talents such as Mamitha Baiju and Anaswara Rajan achieving widespread popularity and star status before the age of 25.

The relatability factor

Swaroop Kodur, film writer, says relatability goes a long way in shaping stardom. "To be a superstar takes a journey. The audience should feel that he or she is a homegrown talent. For Yash, *Kirathaka* (2011) was a game-changer. The movie had the Mandya *sogadu* (flavour), the characters looked real, and Yash's talent was on display. He pulled off the brute, village boy character convincingly," he explains.

Swaroop highlights the importance of obtaining the filmgoers' trust. "Every time a film of his came out, Yash never limited himself to acting. He gave the impression that he was building his career from scratch, ensuring every film of his was done well. This process included ignoring mediocre projects. It's time stars take up more responsibility and take their reputation seriously."

Gilli Nata, the latest Bigg Boss winner, is aiming for this kind of relatability in his acting career. With 2 million followers on Instagram, his popularity has spread beyond urban centres. People from rural pockets are going crazy about him.

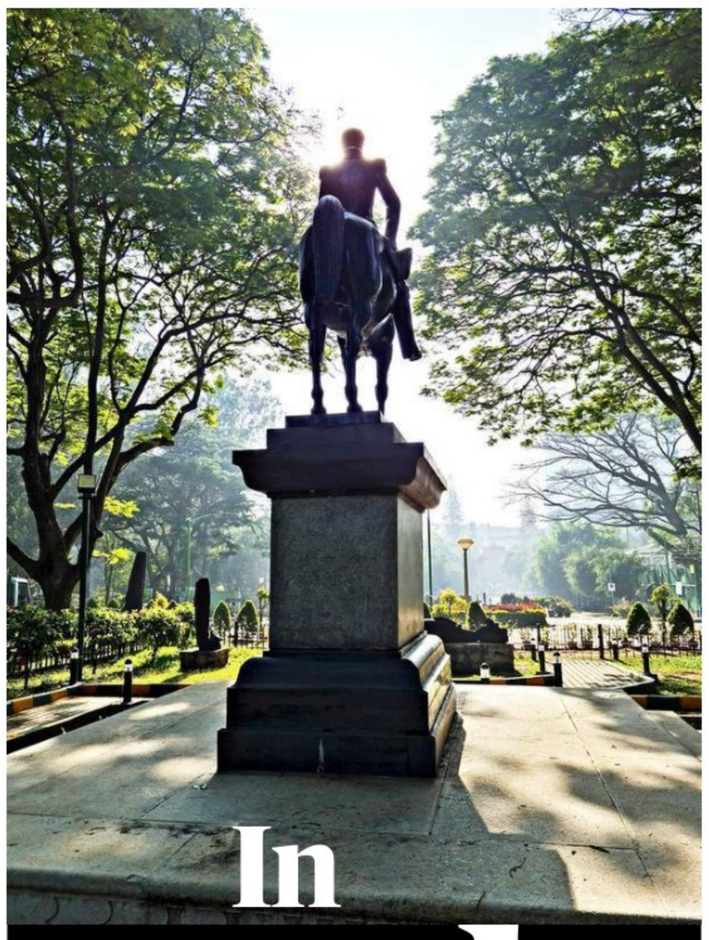
Swaroop feels stardom is also propelled by regional affinity. "Rakshit Shetty is the best example for it. Stardom is a combination of factors. In Telugu, Allu Arjun explored a series of interesting characters, showcasing his skills in every movie. You must make the audience feel that you aren't taking them for granted. Another important aspect is widening one's ecosystem. Rakshit, Daali Dhananjaya and Rishab Shetty brought passionate individuals, like young directors and writers, to their team," he reasons.

A star with a difference

Rangayana Raghu's reinvention as a character-driven lead actor (*Shakhahaari*, *Agnyathavasi*) is a big plus for filmmakers. "In commercial cinema, the popular notion is that an actor who can produce a strong opening is a star. I don't see it that way," says Nagaraja Somayaji, a one-film-old filmmaker whose next with Rangayana Raghu, *Devi Mahatme,* has created buzz for its intriguing trailer.

"Raghu sir has created an interest in his performance through his successful stint as a comedian for decades. He is capable of bringing value to unique scripts, and that's a quality of a star, according to me."

Axis of the city Suresh Jayaram (far right) believes Cubbon Park represents the democratic fabric of our society. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



In park town

Bengaluru-based writer, visual artist and curator Suresh Jayaram on his latest book, *Cubbon Park: Citizens' Perspectives and Many Visions for the Future*

Preeti Zachariah
preeti.zachariah@thehindu.co.in

For Suresh Jayaram, Cubbon Park is a people's place, one that represents the democratic fabric of our society. "It is a very eclectic, secular space that has been, for a long time, an axis of the city," says the Bengaluru-based writer, visual artist, art historian and curator, who feels that Cubbon Park, "as a kind of palimpsest of history from pre-colonial, colonial, post-colonial times...and within these layers of history, there is also a certain environment and ecology that is part of the park," belongs to everyone.

In his new book, *Cubbon Park: Citizens' Perspectives and Many Visions for the Future*, Suresh, the founder of the 1Shanthiroad Studio/Gallery, actively engages with the city's central green lung, using an interesting format to tell the story of Cubbon Park –a series of interviews conducted with other fellow Bengalureans, interspersed with factoids and evocative photographs.

Not only does the book delve into the park's history, and its built and natural environments, but it also presents it as a space that has fostered community, harboured memories, developed artistic inclinations, nurtured desire and love, or simply allowed people to be.

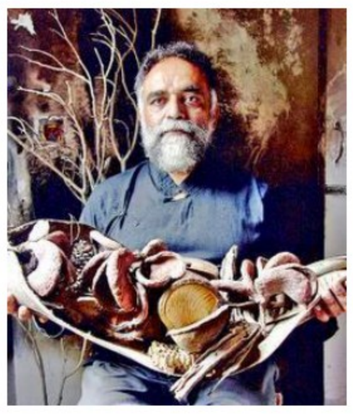
"I wanted to collect different voices, almost like a conductor or a sutradhar, string them together and make it a citizens' perspective," says Suresh, who thinks of this book as a contemporary, ethnographic document and archival material, reflecting the Bengaluru-specific identity of the various citizens and stakeholders it features.

The idea for the book emerged soon after his book on Lalbagh, *Bangalore's Lalbagh: A Chronicle of the Garden and the City*, was published back in 2021. When he began looking more closely at Cubbon Park, "I realised it is very different from Lalbagh," he says.

Unlike Lalbagh, which was primarily conceptualised as a botanical garden, Cubbon Park is primarily a public park, standing between Bengaluru's Cantonment and Pete areas.

"In post-Independent India, it became a bridge between these two areas," says Suresh, who refers to Cubbon Park as a space that is "quite porous with many entries and exits. This makes a park a crucible of people from different social ranks."

When people visit the city, they almost always go to Cubbon Park to get a slice of Bengaluru that they don't get anywhere else, he says, adding that it is an extremely walkable part of town, allowing a visitor to "get a sense of the colonial past, rest and see some art (at the nearby museums), look at nature or even attend a concert at bandstand. We don't have a beach in Bengaluru, so the place to go to is a garden, where you can eat roasted corn or peanuts, snacks associated with leisure and sharing."



Having said that, Suresh also agrees that the park's nature is changing as surveillance within it mounts and freedoms are continually being curtailed. "Gentrification is the new colonisation. We need to be sensitive to people's needs."

He feels that if someone wants to come and sleep in the park because they are tired, or come from a village for a court case and need to use the park's facilities, it should be allowed. Cubbon Park is, after all, a people's park and is eventually for them. "If there are no people, why should there be a park?." The commons, in his view, "need to be proactive, welcoming, and non-judgmental...a place where people can meet others, and not only engage with conversation, but also believe in a city which can be taken care of."

Suresh also talks about how a green space like Cubbon Park is essential for another reason, one that is often undervalued: its role in promoting mental well-being.

"Sitting in the park and engaging with nature is a fundamental human thing," he says, pointing out that the citizens of Bengaluru get to engage more with nature because of the city's numerous parks and its weather, which allows plants to grow in abundance.

"These are gifts that the makers of Bengaluru have given to us. They believed that public health is also dependent on people enjoying a fountain or sitting on a garden seat or looking at a blossoming tree," says Suresh.

Cubbon Park: Citizens' Perspectives and Many Visions for the Future *is available against a donation of ₹1199 at all major city bookstores.*

STEPOUT

Wake up call

Jagriti Theatre will hold Morning Raag with Sarfaraaz Khan, a celebration of classical Indian music. The event will see acclaimed sarangi artist Sarfaraaz Khan perform an intimate recital, featuring a morning raga presented in both gayaki and tantrakari styles, followed by a thumri or dhun.

At Lumbini, Jagriti Theatre, on June 28, starting at 7.30am. Tickets, priced at ₹300, are available on BookMyShow.

Strike a pose

Natanam Institute of Dance, a member of the International Dance Council (CID) of UNESCO, will present Nruthya Sammilana, a Bharatanatyam recital featuring talented young dancers, Maanasa Ranga and Divya Vijayalakshmi Dharmarajan, disciples of the renowned Bharatanatyam exponent Raksha Karthik.

At Medai – The Stage, Museum Road, on June 28, 10am onwards. For details, call 9886107701

Under the stagelights

Theatre Nisha is set to perform Girish Karnad's *Bali: The Sacrifice*, a play based on an ancient Kannada epic that explores power, morality, deceit and religious belief through domestic conflict. *Bali: The Sacrifice* has been directed by the company's founder and artistic-director V Balakrishnan.

At Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar on June 26, at 3.30pm and 6.30pm. Tickets, priced at ₹400, are available on BookMyShow.

Afloat on first love

Jhumkewali, a queer retro romance by Mumbai's hausofbhaus, debuts in Bengaluru this weekend

Story of us A scene from a previous staging of *Jhumkewali.* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ruth Dhanaraj
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The imagination is a wondrous place where ideas take root and bloom. The crushing crowds on Mumbai's local trains didn't stop Ami Bhansali from adding a dreamy twist to the monotony of her daily routine.

"I was sitting in the local train, and wondered how this practice of selling trinkets to commuters began. My hypothesis was a lady deeply in love started it so her girlfriend could buy jhumkis whenever she pleased," says Ami, who admits they enjoy watching people try, buy and sell these traditional bell-shaped danglers on trains.

Jhumkewali first took shape as a short story at a writer's workshop before it became a play they collaborated on with Nidhi Krishna, and Ami is quite clear it is, "a love story, and not a tale of coming out".

According to Ami, the recent passing of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026, has left many in the community feeling vulnerable and a story such as *Jhumkewali* would be a welcome respite. "It is important for us to keep making queer and trans-centric art, and do our bit to spread queer joy."

Set in 1974, *Jhumkewali* is a sweet story of first love between Rekha and Bindu, two college goers, who first bond over their penchant for earrings. The play follows them as they revel in the headiness of a budding romance despite the happenings around them.

Ami lauds the efforts of Arjoon Kabir Kakkar and his show *Jismaan Ton Paar* on being a trans-man, and Anureet Watta of *Don't Interrupt While We Dance,* a film about a group of queer friends, and others, whose works spread awareness on their lives.

"The whole idea of this play is to provide queer and trans people a space where they need not worry about how difficult the outside world is."

Written by Ami Bhansali and directed by Nidhi Krishna and Mekhala, *Jhumkewali,* produced by hausofbhaus, will be performed by Lauren Robinson and Harshini Misra, for the first time in Bengaluru.

Jhumkewali *will be staged at Jagriti Theatre on June 27, 3.30pm and 7.30pm. Tickets, priced at ₹500, available on BookMyShow.*

Musician Raghu Dixit will be representing India at Russia's EtoEtno festival and the United Kingdom's Southbank Centre

'Beauty is in the moment'

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

"Today, India is an interesting juxtaposition and my music is reflective of that. Though we perform folk poetry and folk styles of singing, we present it in a global form with rock guitars and drums," says Raghu Dixit. The Bengaluru-based singer and composer will be the only Indian artiste performing at EtoEtno, a festival of global folk and ethno-fusion styles, in Russia this weekend.

According to Raghu, the invite to EtoEtno was due to the success of the Silk Road Festival of Modern Tradition conceptualised by Slobodan Trkulja, a musician from Serbia, and founder of the band Slobodan Trkulja & Balkanopolis.

The second edition of the Silk Road Festival which took place in March this year had musicians from China, Russia, India, Bulgaria, Syria, Uzbekistan, and other nations performing. "Each one sang their own compositions, two or three songs in their regional languages. The show celebrated the diversity of the world's states and cultures coming together and the artistic director of Russia's EtoEtno festival wanted a similar lineup of musicians to perform in their country."

"Slobodan and I have been friends for over a decade now and ever since we met at the Rainforest World Music Festival in Malaysia, we've been wanting to work together," says Raghu, adding he will perform at the EtoEtno festival solo, before heading to London where he will perform at Southbank Centre with his band.

Slobodan, who is a singer, multi-instrumentalist, composer and producer, believes the purpose of the Silk Road Festival is, "to remind ourselves how beautiful the world is". "How infinitely different we all are and yet, essentially the same humans that carry the spark of the divine within," he says, speaking from his home in Serbia.

Raghu believes his meeting with musicians from other countries and his travels have helped shape his music which cannot be categorised as party numbers or romantic ballads

His reasons for structuring the festival on diversity is two-fold, Slobodan continues. "Combining different traditions, songs and styles from distant places is what Silk Road is about. Secondly, while wars are raging everywhere, we fight for beauty through music. We've forgotten our purpose on earth – we fight for beauty because beauty will save the world."

"Slobodan wanted me to bring the poetry that I sing from the saints of India as he believes that is representative of my work. I will be presenting hymns by Kabir Das and Santa Shishunala Sharifa of Karnataka," Raghu says, adding that songs from his album *Shakkar (*released in 2024) will also be performed as well as new material in multiple languages.

Music and mysticism Raghu Dixit. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The lineup for his show in the UK, will be similar, he says.

Raghu believes his meeting with musicians from other countries and his travels have helped shape his music, which cannot be categorised as party numbers or romantic ballads. "The wise men of India have left behind beautiful poetry brimming with messages that are far more relevant today than ever before," says the singer, adding that, "over the years my purpose too, has changed".

"Earlier, it was for the money and fame, but I've come to realise we can be heroes on stage but those heroes are never of any real help. Everything is transient and beauty is in the moment."

"If life teaches us to become kinder and more compassionate, then, we have fulfilled our purpose. We should leave this world better people than we came into it."

Raghu Dixit will represent India at EtoEtno in St. Petersburg, Russia on June 27 and 28, following which he will play with The Raghu Dixit Project at South Bank Centre, the United Kingdom on July 3.

DKS: A shared commitment to protecting water rights

Shivakumar says Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have discussed key concerns raised by farmers, including the proposed Navali balancing reservoir, and the need to remove accumulated silt from the reservoir

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday said that Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana arrived at a historic consensus to safeguard the interests of farmers dependent on the Tungabhadra river basin, as the newly-replaced 33 spillway gates of the Tungabhadra reservoir were formally inaugurated at Hosapete in Vijayanagara district.

Addressing a gathering at Munirabad in neighbouring Koppal district, after the inauguration of the newly-installed spillway gates, Mr. Shivakumar said the three States had held extensive discussions on issues concerning the reservoir, and the larger interests of farmers in the command area.

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, at the inauguration of the newly-installed crest gates of the Tungabhadra dam near Hosapete in Vijayanagara on Thursday.

New lease of life

Mr. Shivakumar said the deliberations covered key concerns raised by farmer organisations and representatives, including the proposed Navali balancing reservoir, and the need to remove accumulated silt from the reservoir to improve water conservation and storage. He said the three States had reached a broad understanding on measures required to protect farmers' interests in the Tungabhadra basin.

Calling the day an important moment in the history of the Water Resources Department, the Chief Minister said the coming together of the three riparian States reflected a shared commitment to protecting water rights and ensuring the welfare of farmers dependent on the Tungabhadra project. He said the focus of the discussions had been on finding a collective solution to irrigation-related concerns affecting farmers in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

He said the decision to replace all the spillway gates had been taken keeping in mind the long-term safety of the reservoir and the interests of farmers across the Tungabhadra command area. Referring to the participation of the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in the programme, he described the event as a symbol of inter-State cooperation in addressing common water concerns.

The inauguration of the 33 newly installed spillway gates marks the culmination of a major rehabilitation exercise undertaken after the washout of Gate No. 19 in August 2024, an incident that had triggered widespread concern over the safety of the ageing gate system and the availability of irrigation water in the command area.

The event was also attended by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, along with Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil.

Recruitment drive set to begin with number of jobs enhanced

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

In what could bring joy to thousands of aspirants of government jobs, the Karnataka government has enhanced the number of posts for recruitment to 72,186 from 56,432 announced earlier. It has also sought completion of the recruitment process, including handing over of appointment order, within the next six months.

The decision to enhance the number came during the last Cabinet meeting following which a circular was issued on Wednesday.

Of the total 72,186 posts that would be filled through direct recruitment across 51 departments, 40,009 are in different departments for which approvals have been received from the Finance Department since 2023-2024. As many as 32,177 posts belong to Kalyana Karnataka cadre since the Finance Department has provided approval to fill up 80% of the vacant posts in the region that comes under Article 371 J.

According to the Second Administrative Reforms Commission, of the total 8.16 lakh sanctioned posts in Karnataka, about 36% of 2.94 lakh posts across 43 departments are vacant. The government has outsourced about 70,492 personnel.

Stalled since 2023

Public recruitment in Karnataka had been stalled since 2023 as a series of litigation over the reservation matters hit the process. The government has even given age relaxation upto five years delays during last six years, also caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

Cases are being heard in the High Court of Karnataka against the enhancement of reservation quota from the Supreme Court-capped 50% to 56%. The nomadic communities have also gone to court against the internal reservation matrix among the Scheduled Castes. While the Karnataka Examinations Authority and the Karnataka Public Service Commission notified several hundred posts and commenced the process, appointment orders have not been issued in most, while in some conditional appointment have been issued subject to final court order.

The reservation issue has been partly cleared after the Cabinet agreed to revert to the quota for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from 17% to 15% and 7% to 3%, respectively, bringing the overall reservation quota to 50%. The internal reservation within 15% Scheduled Castes quota has also been announced

'Welcome move'

Mysuru-based M. Nagasunder, a job aspirant, said that kickstarting recruitment process was a welcome move since the delay has caused intense anxiety among aspirants. "Candidates require consolidated information about the details of departments, posts, to which groups they belong cadre wise to prepare well."

The circular issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Departments said that all recruitment notification must be issued within two months and complete examination process within four months and hand over appointment orders within six months.

Government sources said that two senior officers have been deployed to monitor recruitment process and coordinate efforts with Karnataka Public Service Commission and Karnataka Examination Authority, the two agencies that oversee recruitment.

Centre will roll out major dredging plan for dams: Patil

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil said the Union government is preparing a major plan to remove silt from reservoirs across India, noting that excessive silt accumulation had significantly reduced the storage capacity of many dams, including the Tungabhadra reservoir.

> Dredging reservoirs is an important step not only for improving water availability
>
> **C.R. PATIL,**
> Union Jal Shakti Minister

Mr. Patil said many dams in the country had lost more than 15% of their storage capacity because of silt accumulation.

To address the issue, the Union Jal Shakti Ministry is working on a special dredging programme for reservoirs, under which the Centre would provide technical support while the responsibility of implementation would rest with the respective State governments.

"If the proposed plan is successfully implemented at Tungabhadra, the reservoir's water storage capacity could potentially increase by 25% to 30%. Dredging reservoirs is an important step not only for improving water availability, but also for strengthening irrigation security in command areas dependent on ageing reservoirs," he said.

The Union Minister praised the coming together of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana on a common platform, saying the participation of the three Chief Ministers in the Tungabhadra event reflected a spirit of cooperation over a shared water resource.

"The three States have worked together in a constructive manner," Mr. Patil added.

Some Cong. leaders signal possible rethink on Bidadi project

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

The cautious position adopted by Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president B.K. Hariprasad and Home Minister Priyank Kharge on the proposed acquisition of agricultural land for the Bidadi Township Project, coupled with suggestions that the project may be shelved if farmers refuse to part with their holdings, is expected to strengthen the resolve of protesting farmers and provide fresh ammunition to the BJP-JD(S) alliance.

The KPCC chief, while not opposing development per se, has expressed sympathy for farmers' concerns and suggested that the government should not proceed with the project if it causes large-scale distress among landowners.

Wider consultations

He has advocated wider consultations and greater sensitivity towards the agitation.

While Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has emphasised urban expansion and investment opportunities, Mr. Hariprasad appears to be looking at the potential political fallout among farmers and rural communities.

Mr. Hariprasad said the government would be prepared to drop the project if farmers were unwilling to part with their land.

He pointed out that the project was originally conceived during the previous government headed by H.D. Kumaraswamy. Stressing that farmers' consent was crucial, he noted that compensation would be paid at three times the market value under the land acquisition law enacted during the UPA government. Mr. Hariprasad appears keen to ensure that the party does not face a political backlash similar to land acquisition agitations witnessed elsewhere in the country.

Referring to the government's "Go Beyond Bengaluru" policy, Mr. Kharge indicated that the township project could be shifted to another part of the State if farmers in the proposed acquisition area remained unwilling to surrender their land. "Whatever happens must happen according to the law," he said.

Highlighting the apparent differences between him and Mr. Shivakumar, a BJP functionary recalled Mr. Hariprasad's earlier remark that "those who seek power and positions go with Mr. Shivakumar, while those who want to strengthen the party join hands with me."

This has the potential to evolve from a straightforward government-versus-Opposition confrontation into a wider debate within the Congress over how land acquisition projects should be pursued.

'108' services to work as usual

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Health Department has promised citizens that the 108 emergency ambulance services will remain unaffected during a 24-hour shutdown of the Karnataka State Data Centre.

The data centre, which hosts the servers supporting the State's emergency response infrastructure, will undergo critical electrical maintenanc.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

11TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr.T.SELVARAJ
Former General Secretary,
Lakshmi Vilas Bank Employees Union
Former Vice - President, NCBE
Former General Secretary,
LVB Retirees Organisation
Founder - Managing Trustee - Unity Foundation.

"In Loving Memory
Eleven years have passed since you left us, but not a day goes by without thoughts of you. Your love and memory continue to live on in our hearts.
Forever missed. Forever loved."

Wife, Sons, Daughters-in-law and Grand Children

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
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VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590 018, Karnataka State.

No.: V.T.U./BGM/S.A.P./CW1/T-746/2026-27/1347 Date: 23-06-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION - 2ND CALL

The Registrar, V.T.U., Belagavi, invites (Two Cover Systems) E-tenders for the following work through E-procurement tendering mode. **Name of Work : Tender for Subscription of 1Gbps Leased Line Internet Connectivity for 03 Years to VTU CNC Section, Belagavi. Amount put to Tender : Rs. 57,52,500/-. EMD : Rs. 1,15,500/-. Last Date for Receipt of Tender : 30-06-2026 upto 2.30 p.m. Date of Opening of Tender : 01-07-2026 at 4.00 p.m.** The details regarding participation in the E-tendring can be accessed by logging to our **VTU Website : www.vtu.ac.in** and E-procurement Portal **Website : www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Registrar.
V.T.U., Belagavi,

DIPR/Belagavi/484/Manipal/2026-27

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
O/o Executive Engineer
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor,
Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari
(Near Banashankari Temple), Bangalore-560070.

KPPP Tender Notice

TWO COVER SYSTEM

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No.EE/PRED/ BNG(U)/TND/AE-1/19/2026-27 Dated: 25.06.2026

Tenders are invited through KPPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For KPS Grants Works. The work details can obtained from the KPPP Website. The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before Dated: **02.07.2026 upto 4.00 PM.** Further details can be obtained from website at **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- **Executive Engineer,**
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Urban Dist., Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/DISHA/1342/ 2026-27

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road,
Bengaluru - 560009.

Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invites tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for the below mentioned work.

Construction of "Prajasoudha" Kadur Taluk Adalitha Kendra at Kadur Taluk, Chikkamagaluru District. **Work Indent No. :** KHB/2026-27/BD/ WORK_INDENT 764 & IFT No.31/2026-27 Date: 25.06.2026. **Amount put to tender :** Rs.11,91,50,937/-.

Last date for submission of bid is on 24.07.2026 up to 4.00 PM.

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/1353/AKAR/2026-27

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Zone-1, Vidyaranyapura Division,
No. 582, 1st Main BEL Layout, 2nd Stage, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru - 560097.

No: BNCC/EE/VDP-D/KPPP/03/2026-27 Date: 25-06-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

The Government of Karnataka vide **G.O. No. UDD 429 MNY 2026, Bengaluru, Dated: 18-06-2026,** has accorded Approval in Principle and Sanctioned under GOK Grants for taking up of the work listed below.

The Executive Engineer, Vidyaranyapura Division, Zone-1, BNCC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BNCC or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of Works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	**Package No: 01 (Package Consists of 5 Works Rs. 1350.00 Lakhs) 1)** Improvements to Roads and Drains at Srinidhi Layout, Balaji Layout, Kamath Layout, Vaishnavi Layout, Ganesha Layout, D. Mandala Layout and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 08, Singapura, **2)** Improvements to Roads and Drains at Singapura Paradise, Varadarajaswamy Layout, Lakkappa Layout and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 08, Singapura, **3)** Improvements to Roads and Drains at M.S. Palya, Vinayakanagara, Maruthi Layout, Bharathnagara, Hosabalu Nagara and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 08, Singapura, **4)** Improvements to Roads and Drains at Kuvempunagara and Ramachandrapura Surrounding Area in Ward No. 09, Kuvempunagara, **5)** Improvements to Roads and Drains at Kuvempunagara 1st and 2nd Stage, Kalathur Layout, Velankini Layout and Surrounding area in Ward No. 09, Kuvempunagara. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 1088.80, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 15,00,000/- (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through KPP Portal and Rs. 14.00 Lakh in the form of B.G)**
2	**Package No: 02 (Package Consists of 4 Works Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs) 1)** Improvements of Road and Drains in Venkataswamappa Layout, Gurudarshini Layout, Gnaneshwari Layout and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 10, Vidyraranypaura, **2)** Improvements of Road and Drains in BEL Layout 1st, 2nd Block, HMT Layout 5th and 6th Block, Sommanna Garden and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 10, Vidyraranypaura, **3)** Improvements of Road and Drains in Telecom Layout, J.V. Enclave, Uthanlappa Layout, Munishamappa Layout and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 12, Thindlu, **4)** Improvements of Road and Drains in Thindlu Village, Maramma Temple Virupakshapura and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 12, Thindlu. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 806.50, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 12,10,000/- (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through KPP Portal and Rs. 11.10 Lakh in the form of B.G)**
3	**Package No: 03 (Package Consists of 4 Works Rs. 1100.00 Lakhs) 1)** Improvements of Road and Drains and Allied Works Doddabommasandra Village, Deshabandu Nagara, Yarappa Garden and Kabeer Ashrama and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 11, Doddabommasandra, **2)** Improvements of Road and Drains and Allied Works at Chikka Venkatappa Layout, Krishna Temple Road, Kateramma Temple Road and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 11, Doddabommasandra, **3)** Improvements of Road and Drains in Bhadrappa Layout, Muneshwara Layout, Kodigehalli Village and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 13, Kodigehalli, **4)** Improvements of Road and Drains in Tatanagar, Devinagara, Hanumaiah Layout, Maruthi Nagara and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 13, Kodigehall. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 846.80, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 12,70,000/- (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through KPP Portal and Rs. 11.70 Lakh in the form of B.G)**
4	**Package No: 04 (Package Consists of 4 Works Rs. 1050.00 Lakhs) 1)** Improvements of Road and Drains and Allied Works in Balaji Layout, Sonnegowda Layout, Shanubogh Layout, Sanjiveeni Nagara and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 14, Rajivgandhi Nagara, **2)** Improvements of Road and Drains and Allied Works in NTI Layout, Amco Layout and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 14, Rajivgandhi Nagara, **3)** Construction of Balance Portion Retaining Wall at Singapura Gutta and Kuvempunagara in Ward No. 09, Kuvempunagara, **4)** Development and Upgradation of Parks in Vidyaranyapura Division. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 846.80, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 12,70,000/- (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through KPP Portal and Rs. 11.70 Lakh in the form of B.G)**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents may be Downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 29-06-2026, 16.30 Hours onwards. 2)** Last Date for Receipt of Queries and Pre Bid Meeting on **01-07-2026 at 15.00 Hours. 3)** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **08-07-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 4)** Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **09-07-2026 at 16.30 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **Will be intimated to Bidders.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Vidyaranyapura Division, Zone-1, BNCC.

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12 flights diverted at KIA due to bad weather

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A dozen flights were delivered at the Kempegowda International Airport on Thursday evening due to bad weather. Airport officials said that there were 12 diversions and a few flights were also delayed.

Many airlines issued a travel advisory about the bad weather and that flight schedules were affected due this.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) data said that the Kempegowda International Airpot receive 16.6 mm till 5.30 p.m.

Paper leaks show systemic failure in NTA, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Kerala Higher Education Minister and Congress leader Roji John said on Thursday that repeated paper leaks and irregularities in national examinations pointed to a "systemic failure" in the National Testing Agency (NTA), and demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Mr. John said the Centre should not "hide behind the NTA".

"This is not just a leak. This is a systemic failure," he said.

Gruha Lakshmi: BJP for SIT probe into payments to dead persons

'Payments under the scheme have been made to fake accounts, and a big group of officials and politicians is behind it'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Alleging that a ₹225-crore "government-sponsored" loot had taken place in the Gruha Lakshmi guarantee scheme involving a group of officials and politicians, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok on Thursday demanded a Special Investigation Team (SIT) be constituted to probe the irregularities.

Addressing a press conference, he said the government had maintained silence on the episode though the CAG report had clearly mentioned about the scam. "Payments under Gruha Lakshmi have been made to several fake accounts, and a big group of officials and politicians is behind it," he alleged.

R. Ashok. FILE PHOTO

"It has been found that 2.11 lakh beneficiaries, who are receiving the money under the scheme, are actually dead. Details of another 77,000 people, who are receiving the money under the scheme, are yet to be traced," he said.

Ashok announces that the BJP will take up a second phase of struggle against Bidadi Township Project

He further alleged that the government had stopped payment of social security pensions to about 16 lakh beneficiaries owing to shortfall in revenue collection.

'Water released tacitly'

Mr. Ashok accused the Congress government in Karnataka of deceiving farmers by tacitly releasing water from KRS reservoir to Tamil Nadu to please its alliance partner TVK. He maintained that the water level in KRS reservoir had depleted as the government was secretly releasing water to Tamil Nadu.

"The KRS presently has a storage of just 81.03 per cent as against full reservoir level of 124.80 feet. But as against the inflow of 689 cusecs, the outflow is 1,886 cusecs. This means an excessive amount of water is being released to Tamil Nadu though the State itself is reeling under deficit rainfall and farmers are anguished as they are unable to save their crop. In June, 9.19 tmcft of water has to be released to Tamil Nadu (as per the Tribunal order). Hence, Karnataka is secretly releasing water to the neighbouring State," he said.

"In such circumstances, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar should have convened an all-party meeting to discuss the issue," he said.

On Bidadi

Mr. Ashok announced that the BJP would take up a second phase of struggle against Bidadi Township Project. "We have already discussed the issue with our party Central leaders and details regarding the struggle would be chalked out soon," he said.

Veena questioned again in CMRL pay-off case

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday questioned T. Veena, daughter of Kerala's Leader of the Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan, for the second time at its zonal office here in connection with the Cochin Minerals and Rutile Limited (CMRL) pay-off case.

The agency summoned her for questioning after it obtained copies of 134 documents collected by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), which had investigated the alleged fictitious expenses submitted by the CMRL before the Income Tax Interim Settlement Board.

Ms. Veena, who reached the ED office around 9.30 a.m., left the premises around 8.30 p.m. She was interrogated for nearly eight hours on June 17.

Following her initial round of questioning, the ED had inspected Ms. Veena's bank lockers in Thiruvananthapuram on June 19. Subsequently, the agency issued a fresh summons directing her to appear on June 29 in connection with the money-laundering probe in the CMRL pay-off case. However, Thursday's questioning appears to have been prompted by the receipt of documents from the SFIO.

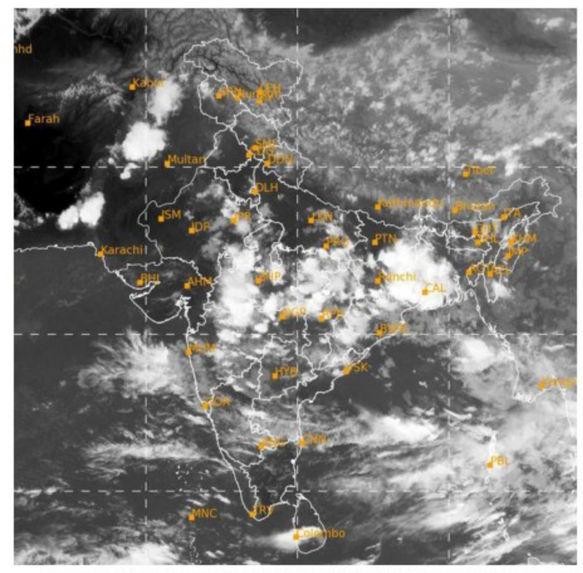
ED has issued a fresh summons directing Veena to appear on June 29 in connection with CMRL pay-off case. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A special court in Ernakulam had earlier permitted the Central agency to access the SFIO's documents, which related to alleged fictitious expenses submitted by the CMRL before the Income Tax Interim Settlement Board. These included records of payments amounting to ₹2.78 crore made by the CMRL to Exalogic, Ms. Veena's now-defunct company. The SFIO, under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, found that the money was transferred without any services being rendered in return.

The SFIO investigation had further revealed fictitious cash expenses of about ₹182 crore over a span of 15 years, allegedly used by CMRL to bribe various individuals.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: AQICN/CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa and Karnataka. Heat wave to severe heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over east Uttar Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.3	27.2	Kurnool	—	37.6	26.8
Ahmedabad	—	40.5	29.0	Lucknow	—	39.9	30.0
Aizawl	0.1	28.5	23.4	Madurai	—	40.5	26.2
Bengaluru	—	30.5	20.8	Mangaluru	22.8	29.0	23.8
Bhopal	38	32.8	22.0	Mumbai	13.4	32.2	24.5
Bhubaneswar	—	37.2	26.1	Mysuru	—	30.4	20.0
Chandigarh	—	38.5	26.2	New Delhi	2.2	38.8	25.2
Chennai	—	39.6	29.2	Patna	—	40.8	30.7
Coimbatore	—	33.4	23.0	Port Blair	0.3	31.5	26.7
Dehradun	4.2	36.1	24.2	Prayagraj	—	43.0	29.5
Gangtok	2.5	25.0	18.4	Puducherry	—	38.3	27.6
Goa	92.6	32.0	23.8	Pune	4.7	31.8	23.4
Guwahati	37.6	34.8	24.6	Raipur	—	38.0	27.6
Hubballi	—	28.0	23.0	Ranchi	15.0	32.7	23.0
Hyderabad	—	31.7	24.2	Shillong	11.2	25.6	16.4
Imphal	5.8	32.1	22.4	Shimla	5.3	27.8	19.5
Jaipur	1.2	37.0	28.9	Srinagar	—	30.8	18.3
Kochi	2	31.2	26.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.0	26.4
Kohima	—	25.0	19.0	Tiruchirappalli	—	39.1	26.6
Kolkata	—	36.7	28.6	Vijayawada	1.8	36.0	26.0
Kozhikode	4.1	34.0	25.9	Visakhapatnam	—	33.9	29.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bengaluru	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chennai	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi	12	39	18	112	182	
Hyderabad	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kolkata	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lucknow	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mumbai	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pune	—	—	—	—	—	—
Visakhapatnam	—	—	—	—	—	—

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bahadurgarh, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 263 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 21

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Mahalakshmipuram Division, 12th Main, 11th Cross,
West of Chord Road, BWCC, Bengaluru.

No: EE/MLP/TEND/E-PROC/07/2026-27 Date: 24-06-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Mahalakshmipuram Division, BWCC, Bengaluru for the work mentioned below from the registered Contractors of BWCC or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / BBMP or any State Government Organizations.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Improvements of Roads and Drains in 1st Main, 2nd Main and 3rd Main Roads of Mahalakshmi Layout Extended Layout in Ward No. 41, Nagapura and AGB Layout Surrounding Area in Ward No. 40, Mahalakshmipuram. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 320.24, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 4.80**

Calendar of Events: **1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 29-06-2026 after 16.30 Hours. 2)** Last Date for Receipt of Queries: **01-07-2026 upto 15.00 Hours. 3)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **01-07-2026 at 15.30 Hours. 4)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Proposals is **07-07-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is **08-07-2026 after 16.30 Hours through KPP Portal.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Mahalakshmipuram Division, BWCC.

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple), Bengaluru-560070

KPPP TENDER NOTICE
Two Cover System
Tender Notification No.: EE/PRED/BNG(U)/ TND/AE-2/20/2026-27 Date: 25.06.2026

Tenders are invited through KPPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, for 5054 Rain Effected Program Grants Works. The work details can obtained from the KPPP Web Site. The tender documents can be obtained and submitted on or before dated: **09.07.2026** upto **4:00 p.m.** Further details can be obtained from web site at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/-, Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Urban Dist., Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/LC/1365/2026-27

Office of the Executive Engineer,
P.W.D. Special division, Shimoga
Ph: 08182-222943, E-Mail: spdivision@gmail.com
IFT NO:15/2026-27 Date:25-06-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Shimoga Special Division, invites tenders as per K.T.P.P act 2000, in standard Bid document K/W-3&4 (two cover system) Contractors has registered in PWD Department Class-3 and above register contractor can apply under head of account 8443-00-117-0-14-542-Deposite Contribution (State Disaster Mitigation Fund-SDMF) for Total -14 works are (Indent No. 36632, 36641, 36643, 36654, 36631, 36634, 36642, 36646, 36649, 36653, 36655, 36686, 36702, 36813) in Thirthahalli Taluk for Maximum Amount put to tender is. Rs. 156.74 Lakhs, and Minimum Amount put to tender is 82.18 Lakhs, Maximum EMD amount is Rs.2.351 lakhs and Minimum EMD amount is Rs. 1.644 Lakhs. Time allowed for completion of work is 09 Months including Monsoon. The tenderers may submit tenders through KPP-portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz., http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in). The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum quali fication criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Section -2 (Instructions to tenderers) of document, to qualify for award of the contract. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP-Portal from 25-06-2026 to 06-07-2026 Last date for Receipt of Tender is on 06-07-2026 at 17.00 PM. The Technical bid will be opened on 07-07-2026 at 05.30 PM onwards and Financial bid will be opened after 08-07-2026 Onwards. If there any changes in publication, it will be puplishing through KPP-Portal only. For more information may be obtained from the office during working hours. Information published in Website is final.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department,
Special Division, Shimoga.
DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/121/06/433

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ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: itstaff_ulb_mnhalli@yahoo.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮಾ.ನ.ಕಾ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/00/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25–06–2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

ಮಾದನಾಯಕನಹಳ್ಳಿ ನಗರಸಭಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ/ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ /ವಿದ್ಯುತ್/ಅರ್ಹ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜಿಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಮೊಹರಾದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ.	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್	ವರ್ಗ
1	INDENT60254 INDENT60256 INDENT60258 INDENT60259 INDENT60145 INDENT60147 INDENT60148 INDENT60149 INDENT60154 INDENT60153	ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ
2	INDENT60255 INDENT60260	ಎಸ್.ಟಿ
3	INDENT60138 INDENT60143 INDENT60150 INDENT60151	ಎಸ್.ಸಿ
4	INDENT60144 INDENT60152	ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–2ಎ
5	INDENT60146	ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–1
	ಸರಬರಾಜು ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	
1	DMA/2026-27/IND6363, DMA/2026-27/IND6365	

ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13–07–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14–07–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16–07–2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸುವಿಕೆ (EXPRESSION OF INTEREST)

ಮಾದನಾಯಕನಹಳ್ಳಿ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ 10 ಟಿ.ಟಿ.ಡಿ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ಎಂ.ಆರ್.ಎಫ್. ಘಟಕದ ಕಾರ್ಯಚರಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಗಳಿಂದ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯಿರುವ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಗಳು ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಬಿಡ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಫೀ–ರೂ.1000–00 ಗಳ ಡಿ.ಡಿ. ಯೊಂದಿಗೆ, ತಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಮುದ್ರಾಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಬಿಡ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14–07–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15–07–2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು,
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಮಾದನಾಯಕನಹಳ್ಳಿ

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಾಪ್ರಾ/ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎಲ್/1351/2026–27

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Delhi Transco Ltd, a Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking, invites online tender for the work:

Tender No. T25P111926: Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning, along with associated complete Civil works & Automation of (i) 66kV GIS at 220kV Substation BTPS along with 3x160MVA PTRs, (ii) 66kV GIS at 400/220/66kV Substation Dwarka along with 3x160 MVA PTRs, and (iii) 06 Nos. GIS Feeder Bays (extension of existing GIS) at 400/220/66kV Substation Harsh Vihar, on a Trunkey Basis.

For complete details of the tender please visit following websites :-

https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in (Tender ID No. 2026_DTL_294322_1) and **www.dtl.gov.in** with Unique No. DTL-0061-250626

Last date for bid submission: **14.08.2026 at 01.30 P.M.**

All Corrigendum/Addendum/ Amendments/ Date of Extension/ Clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(BELLARY THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

Tenders are invited through e-Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works:

1) KPCL/2026-27/PS/WORK_INDENT4289 Date: 19.06.2026 for Repair, Reconditioning and Overhauling of 02 Nos. of BEML RD 155 DozerBS6D170-1 series Engines. **Total Tender Amount:** Rs.28,33,102/-. **EMD:** Rs.56,700/-. **Last date for submission of bids:** 04.07.2026 up to 13:00 Hrs. Further details can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer (CHP) Mechanical-2, BTPS, KPCL, Kudathini 583152, Ballari District, Mobile Number +919448290755.

2) KPCL/2026-27/PS/WORK_INDENT4324 Date: 19.06.2026 for Repair and servicing of 12.5 ton and 4.5 ton electrical hoists at unit-2 Crusher house including spares. **Total Tender Amount:** Rs.4,62,500/-. **EMD:** Rs.11,600/-. **Last date for submission of bids:** 04.07.2026 up to 13:00 Hrs. Further details can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer (CHP) Mechanical-1, BTPS, KPCL, Kudathini 583152, Ballari District, Mobile Number +919448290756.

3) KPCL/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT4240 Date: 20.06.2026 for Testing, rewinding / reconditioning of LT motors of various ratings ranging 1 from 55.1 KW to 175KW of Unit 1, 2 & 3 of BTPS on rate contract basis for a period of one year (2026-27). **EMD :** Rs.44,101.00/-. Last date for submission / uploading the bid in e-portal : 15.07.2026. Further details can be had from the Executive Engineer (OLA) Electrical, BTPS, Kudathini-583 152, Ballari District, Mobile Number: 09448290740.

Karnataka State Police Housing and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
#59, Richmond Road, (Gen. K S Thimmaiah Road) Bengaluru-25
Phone: 080-25584102/25594893
e-Mail: eecontractksphc@gmail.com | Website: www.ksphc.org
No.EE/KSPH&IDCL/CNT/Tender/02/2026-27/08/73 Dated:24-06-2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

KSPH & IDCL invites online tender as per KTPP 2000 Act & as per Standard Tender Document through KPPP **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following services:

Providing, Supplying, Installation & Commissioning of Desktop Computers, Printers and Zerox machines to Karnataka State Police Housing & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd in Bengaluru Office Head Quarters.

Interested eligible Agencies may participate in the Tendering Process. The details such as Tender fee, EMD, Tender documents etc., are available on KPP Portal from 29-06-2026 onwards.

"KSPH & IDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reasons."

Note: Henceforth any changes / modifications in the tender will be updated only on KPPP.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer-Contracts
DIPR/CP/1349/CCL/2026-27

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sandal City: P.B. No. 5531, Bengaluru-Pune Highway, Bengaluru - 560 055.
Ph: 080-22164879, 22164886, Website: www.mysoresandal.org e-mail: **ksdl.dgmmtls@gmail.com**
An ISO-9001:2015 & 14001:2015 Company
Date: 25.06.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tenders are invited by **KS&DL** in two cover system through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**) with respect to supply of following Goods/Services/Works.

Sl. No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Tender Quantity	Published date	Last Date of Submission
1	KSDL/2026-27/OW/ WORK_INDENT45	Interior works for new KSDL branch office at Vijayawada	Works	24-06-2026	09-07-2026
2	KSDL/2026-27/SE0248	Disposal of waste corrugated boxes at KSDL, Bengaluru Complex on AS IS WHERE IS BASIS	Services	24-06-2026	09-07-2026
3	KSDL/2026-27/IND1281	Procurement of Sandal Bath Tablet 150g (S) Corrugated Boxes	100000 Nos.	24-06-2026	01-07-2026
4	KSDL/2026-27/SE0249	Renewal of Fire, Burglary, and Miscellaneous Insurance Policies covering a total Sum Insured of Rs.1,150 Crores on a Declaration Basis for the period from 20 July 2026 to 19 July 2027.	Services	24-06-2026	08-07-2026
5	KSDL/2026-27/IND1282	Procurement of Yara Yara	4000 Kgs	25-06-2026	03-07-2026
6	KSDL/2026-27/IND1280	Procurement of Sandalwood Oil	2000 Kgs	25-06-2026	02-07-2026

For any further queries/clarifications please contact the undersigned.

Sd/- Asst. General Manager (Materials)

Onerous rules

The newly amended FCRA Rules point to a renewed attempt to stifle NGOs

Civil society organisations play a vital role in areas such as health, education, disaster relief, and civil liberties and rights, stepping in where the state falls short. Yet, the Indian state has treated NGOs with suspicion, using the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010, to impose stringent restrictions on their functioning. Earlier this week, the FCRA Amendment Rules, 2026 were notified, which require all NGOs registered under the FCRA, 2010, to confine their work to activities specified for their category and to the States and Union Territories named in their registration. They must also disclose their social media handles, websites and publications and are barred from carrying "political content". The new rules impose stringent penalties for using funds for unapproved purposes and require NGOs to pay separate fees for each category of work and to each State or Union Territory in which they operate, replacing the earlier system of a single registration fee. These increase compliance costs and paperwork. While the government argues that such measures promote transparency, even-handedness and national security, the rules are clearly meant to stifle the work of NGOs. The operation of the FCRA regime has been far from transparent. As CPI(M) MP John Brittas recently complained, parliamentary questions on FCRA cancellations and non-renewals have been disallowed as "secret", even though more than 20,000 registrations have reportedly been revoked over the past decade on opaque grounds. Far from improving transparency, the new rules burden NGOs with greater barriers and commitments, raising concerns that the Centre intends to create a chilling effect.

In *Noel Harper* (2022), the Supreme Court upheld the stringent 2020 FCRA amendments, accepting the state's invocation of sovereignty and national security. Yet, in in 2020, the Court had read down rules that would have classified the rights activism of civil society bodies, including protests and demonstrations as work "of a political nature", drawing a distinction between party politics and the everyday work of social and economic betterment. The new Rules seek to treat advocacy and "political content" as grounds for disqualification. In March 2026, the Centre had proposed amendments allowing a government-appointed authority to take over the assets of NGOs whose registrations were cancelled, surrendered, or not renewed. Following strong protests, particularly from minority institutions, it put the proposal on hold. Now, the newly notified rules seem another way of throttling NGOs that utilise foreign funding for civil society work. The Centre should withdraw the punitive provisions, particularly those on multiple fees and political content, and adopt fairer rules.

Broken accountability

Corruption at all levels takes a toll on lives at construction sites

In light of the Taratala warehouse collapse in Kolkata on June 24, the ability to erect a structure based on a reportedly flawed plan is reminiscent of West Bengal's infamous Syndicate Raj. As per the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, an empanelled architect and a structural engineer must certify building plans. The corruption ranges from local cartels, some backed by political heavyweights, allegedly forcing developers to buy subpar construction materials at premium prices to licensed surveyors allegedly delegating the task of signing off on designs not of their doing to unlicensed persons. Early reports of the warehouse collapse – which has now claimed 11 lives while several of the injured are critical – have already found that the contractor used corrugated tin sheets to support the much heavier load of the concrete roof cast – a shortcut cartels have been known to take to cut costs. Eyewitnesses described sudden shaking, a loud sound, and the rapid pancaking of floors; one account also reported visible shaking hours before the collapse following heavy rains. While West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari has suspended all Trinamool Congress-era projects in and around Kolkata as part of a bid to eliminate corruption, migrant labourers will continue to bear the brunt of flawed construction approval and activities if the State does not rein in the informal subcontracting chain. This need is also informed by India expecting to have more migrant labourers with time as environmental degradation undermines many rural livelihoods.

Several structural failures such as this have displayed fragmented accountability, and given the tragic spate of similar 'accidents' around India over the last few years, the time has come to reckon with the fragmentation *per se*. At least some of these failures may have been the result of an anachronistic model of governance that has failed to keep up with the speed of modern construction and complexities in the private sector. An accountability gap thus arises due to land ownership, especially if it involves Centre-State uncertainties, as at Taratala, and/or due to legal systems catering to a paradigm in which the State was the primary builder. Persistent loopholes in existing licensing procedures may also allow the ultimate owners of capital to stay away from 'dirty work' at the construction site, allow impugned engineers to claim ignorance of day-to-day lapses, and give way to jurisdictional ping-pong. At Taratala, reports indicated there were no records of who was on site when the structure collapsed, forcing authorities to rely on accounts from residents and family members, even as blame centred on the local contractor. While he is likely liable, he is only one rung of the ladder.

Keeping humanity at the centre of the AI revolution

Ashwani Kumar

Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, an author and a former Union Minister for Law and Justice

At the peak of human history, the Artificial Intelligence (AI) revolution stands out as a transformative moment, harnessing the infinite potential of science and innovation in the service of humankind. The endless possibilities of AI in every sphere of human activity and its empowering potential to deal with the unprecedented challenges of our times, is a tribute to mankind's collective ingenuity that validates the boast of accomplishments of which 'even the gods might be envious'. The automating of tedious tasks involving repetitive work and freeing time for leisure, expanding access to essential services, breakthroughs in medicine, ensuring longevity and better health care including cancer screening and prediction of terminal illnesses, robotic nursing of the sick, a more effective targeting of economic aid to the marginalised, enhanced accessibility of education and knowledge to all and its vast contribution to environmental sustainability in several ways including disaster management and weather forecasting are some of the crowning contributions of AI toward a more inclusive development agenda.

Technology and human values

Even so, questions about the future of human society and the 'destiny of intelligence' are most vigorously debated by philosophers, scientists, statesmen and the technology czars, some of whom have pleaded for a pause in the further development and deployment of AI that could hijack our idea of humanity. The claims of the AI protagonists about the 'amazing abundance' of goods and services and the caution against slowing down of scientific progress through regulation must contend with the compelling questions about the necessity of ethical guardrails warranted by humanitarian considerations and emotions embedded in the deepest recesses of our being through a cultural evolution spanning the millennia. The question of who we are, and whether we are ready for a new narrative of humanity in which functional efficiency and promised material abundance prevail over the yearnings of the human soul and the dignity of emotion, is an unavoidable and larger inquiry that has resisted the seduction of technological wonders. This is particularly important given that AI is able to replicate, and in some cases even outperform, cognitive skills, including the ability to understand human emotions and intuition.

Are we ready for an endless technological disruption and a 'global epidemic of stress' caused by a prolonged volatility in the job market and a predicted 'useless' class of millions caused by an unmanageable stress in coping with the effects of technological disruption? Whether we have new social and economic models that protect individual self-worth and ensure for all a life of belonging and emotional well-being are larger philosophical questions arising from a humanist perspective founded on the sacrosanctity of the values we carry as a badge of humanity.

AI's promise must be guided by ethics, dignity and accountability

Clearly, the fact that passionate propounders of AI have cautioned against 'summoning the devil without a kill switch', must awaken us to the urgency of serious reflection on how to preserve 'the hidden realm of the mind from which emotions emerge, from which inspiration flows, from which our desires pulse – the subjective part of the human spirit that makes each of us ineluctably who we are'.

Data privacy vulnerabilities, proliferation of misinformation, electoral manipulations, the possibility of super intelligent weapons systems going rogue, AI-enabled phishing campaigns, and surveillance and censorship are some of the ominous portends that can cause social upheavals without effective global regulation.

Preserving the digital sovereignty of nation-states remains a challenge, given that control over data is intrinsically linked to national security and the strategic autonomy of nations. The establishment of a global regulatory regime that respects national sovereignty and ensures effective enforcement can no longer be postponed.

A moral compass

The world of AI that could rewrite the code of humanity, therefore, needs a moral vision that can harmonise technological advancement with the preconditions of a virtuous and happy society. Terry Eagleton's caution in relation to a sense of seductive self-assurance is eloquent and I quote: 'An inflated self- belief can earn its calamitous comeuppance, which caused the ancient Greeks to shudder and look fearfully to the skies'.

Spanish philosopher José Ortega y Gasset reminded us that 'we live at a time when man believes himself fabulously capable of creation, but he does not know what to create. Lord of all things, he is not Lord of himself. He feels lost amid his own abundance. With more means at its disposal, more knowledge, more technique than ever, it turns out that the world today goes the same way as the worst of worlds that have been; it simply drifts'.

The encyclical letter of His Holiness, Pope Leo XIV on 'Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence', clinches the moral debate on the humanist dilemmas in relation to AI. Recognising that technology is not antagonistic to humanity, the Pope has stressed the duty to remain 'profoundly human' in an era of AI when 'human dignity is threatened by new forms of dehumanization'.

Emphasising the need to establish standards of ethical discernment based on the dignity of the individual, His Holiness has warned against the 'illusion' of 'self assertion' and cautioned against progress that exacerbates inequalities and is incapable of healing peoples' wounds. He has called for a rejection of the 'idolatry of profit that sacrifices the weak, a uniformity that neutralizes differences and the pretense that a single language – even a digital one – can translate everything, including the mystery of the person into data and performance'. These assertions by the Pontiff are moral injunctions in a world that needed a reminder of the 'splendour and grandeur of humanity' beyond its creations and of the limitations of AI in terms of its 'affective, relational or spiritual capabilities'.

The moral code propounded by the Pope, a product of an encounter between lived experiences, spiritual consciousness and historical memory, asserts that humanity flourishes in the 'fragility and finitude' of the human person and in its limitations.

Ethical AI governance

Thus viewed in the framework of core human values anchored in the dignity of man, global leaders are expected to opt for a 'humanist centric' approach in the deployment and regulation of AI for the larger good of humanity with the individual at the centre of their decisions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stressed at both the VivaTech 2026 conference in Paris (June 2026) and the India-AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi (February 2026) that such an approach would require a robust and enforceable regulatory framework, rather than voluntary and non-binding commitments, to govern the use of AI. Such a framework could democratise access to frontier AI and help build a shared, trustworthy AI ecosystem in an age that 'levels everything and reveres nothing'. How nations deal with this epochal challenge will define the quality of political leadership and our commitment to inclusive democracy anchored in equality and human dignity as the ultimate civilisational aspiration.

The views expressed are personal

India's shipbuilding ambitions can set sail with Korea

Abhishek Sharma

Junior Fellow, Indo-Pacific, with the Strategic Studies Programme at the Observer Research Foundation

In April this year, South Korean President Lee Jae Myung met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in India, his first visit to India and the first by a Korean leader in eight years. The meeting was remarkable in many ways, as it revived high-level political interaction at the leaders' level, resulting in the expansion of partnership in strategic sectors. However, the visit was special for another reason: it paved the way for strong collaboration between India and South Korea in the shipbuilding industry, a strategic sector that India is seeking to revive.

Seoul plugs into India's shipbuilding drive

Mr. Lee's visit has given positive momentum to the slowly progressing India-South Korea shipbuilding partnership, as seen in the slew of memoranda of understanding (MoU) and agreements signed during his trip. While the big three of the South Korean shipbuilding industry – Samsung Heavy Industries (SHI), HD Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering, and Hanwha Ocean – had already announced their investment plans, partnerships, or interests in India, Mr. Lee's support reiterates the South Korean government's strategic commitment to shipbuilding collaboration with India. Last year, a subsidiary of Hyundai signed an MoU with Cochin Shipyard Limited and has since announced plans to invest $4 billion in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, to construct a green shipyard. Similarly, SHI has signed a partnership with Swan Defence and Heavy Industries to build ships in India. These developments showcase India's attractiveness as a shipbuilding destination for global giants.

South Korea is also interested in developing a complementary supply chain that includes ancillary industries. For instance, the Korea Marine Equipment Association (KOMEA), which comprises 304 enterprises across ship design, shipbuilding, marine equipment, and ship repair, has opened an office in Mumbai. This is expected to pave the way for the development of a robust shipbuilding ecosystem in India. Such steps will help foster a shipbuilding cluster encompassing ancillary industries and other critical facilities required for scaling up the sector. Further, these partnerships are expected to provide the Indian shipbuilding industry with much-needed support, including design and engineering expertise as well as production know-how. This will help India develop human capital and adopt technology at scale, making its shipyards more competitive internationally. In addition, the various MoUs signed between India and South Korea – at both the government-to-government and business-to-business levels – on workforce development, maritime education, research, and innovation will further strengthen the shipbuilding ecosystem. Together, these efforts could help establish a holistic, cluster-led development model inspired by the success of the city of Ulsan in South Korea.

South Korean partnerships could help accelerate India's ambitions to become a shipbuilding powerhouse

What has been accomplished in such a short time is commendable, but the task is far from complete. To emerge as a leading shipbuilding nation, India will have to pursue multiple objectives simultaneously. It must support the industry through proactive policy and fiscal measures while also responding effectively to external crises that could disrupt supply chains and affect demand. The sector will require sustained hand-holding until it becomes self-sufficient and capable of competing globally, particularly with established giants such as China.

Fill the gaps

There must be a focus on human capital development, policy and fiscal support, and bringing in ancillary industries. India's Maritime Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 clearly state the objective of being among the top 10 shipbuilding nations by 2030 and in the top five by 2047.

Complementing initiatives such as the Maritime Development Fund, Shipbuilding Development Scheme, and Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy make it clearer that India is serious about attracting foreign investment in the shipping and shipbuilding sector.

However, policy and operational gaps persist. To rectify these gaps, India will have to focus on implementing a series of reforms related to regulatory consistency and legal predictability and also providing access to low-cost and long-term capital. Steps such as the creation of the Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SFCL), India's first non-banking financial company for the maritime sector, are a positive and welcome development.

However, the greater challenge will be establishing a comprehensive industrial ecosystem for shipbuilding. To achieve this, India will need to move quickly on workforce development, supplier localisation, and the creation of dedicated maritime institutions. In addition, Indian academia and research institutions will have to play a larger role in this developmental partnership to support the country's shipbuilding ambitions.

India must continue to focus on three key priorities: providing sustained policy and fiscal support, developing the capacity to absorb transferred technologies, and formulating a sectoral strategy with clearly defined goals and targets. The in-principle approval of the greenfield project in Tamil Nadu is a welcome development, signalling that approval and implementation bottlenecks need not be insurmountable. To capitalise on this opportunity, however, State governments, alongside the central government, must ensure timely follow-through at every stage, facilitate the entry of foreign investors, and provide continuous support throughout the investment process.

A proven pathway

While India's shipbuilding ambitions are ambitious, they are not impractical. South Korea's shipbuilding journey, from a minor player to a global leader in just 15 years, beginning in the 1970s, demonstrates what is possible. India can replicate that success by focusing on three priorities: sustained policy and financial support, competitive shipbuilding and industrial capacity, and a skilled workforce.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Passport in the spotlight

A matter long ignored is once again in the spotlight: proof of citizenship. The words, "We, The People of India...", enshrined in the Preamble, lose much of their meaning if citizenship itself is uncertain. The idea of living in, serving, and contributing to the nation is what binds citizens together. Yet, many now face an unsettling question: can they conclusively prove that they are citizens of India? Having lived, worked, and raised families, some still find themselves without a universally accepted document establishing their citizenship. The government's 'inability' to clearly identify a single document that definitively establishes one's citizenship and connection to the nation is frustrating.

Aagrah Poudel,
Siliguri, West Bengal

An official position attributed to the Ministry of External Affairs — that a passport is merely a travel document and not proof of citizenship — appears illogical. A non-citizen cannot be issued an Indian passport; only an Indian citizen can legally obtain one. An Indian passport is issued and validated by the Government of India. Since India does not permit dual citizenship, the claim that a passport is only a travel document and not evidence of citizenship is difficult to reconcile with these facts.

Dave James,
Coimbatore

It is unclear whether the Government of India, led by the top leader, is using the Election Commission of India's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls exercise to weed out duplicate/bogus voters or selectively remove voters perceived as non-BJP supporters. Now, MEA officials have 'clarified' — perhaps after consulting a dictionary — that a passport is merely a travel document. If so, the Election Commission or the Home Ministry must clarify what documents conclusively establish citizenship. Until then, should all of us be treated as 'Resident Non-Indians' (RNI)? If the real objective of the SIR exercise is to help the ruling party secure successive victories by pruning voters unlikely to support it, then the revised enrolment form should honestly include a column asking: "Whom did you vote for in the last election?"

N. Nagarajan,
Secunderabad

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Should Indian seafarers stop serving on sanctioned ships?

PARLEY

Ajith Sukumaran

Retd. Additional Director General of Shipping

Biswanath Gupta

Associate Professor, Jindal Global Law School

While merchant ships across the world have been manned by Indian seafarers, officers, engineers and crew for years, recent conflicts have suddenly brought Indian seafarers into focus. A recent flashpoint was when the U.S. attacked three ships allegedly carrying Iranian cargo, on the grounds that they were sanctioned vessels. Three Indian seafarers were killed in those attacks. More recently, when the British detained a Russian-linked vessel that was supposedly under Western sanctions in the English Channel, the Indian captain was arrested. This raises an important question: should Indian seafarers continue serving on these so-called sanctioned ships? Ajith Sukumaran and Biswanath Gupta discuss this question in a conversation moderated by **M. Kalyanaraman.** Edited excerpts:

Could you give us some some background on Indian seafarers in general?

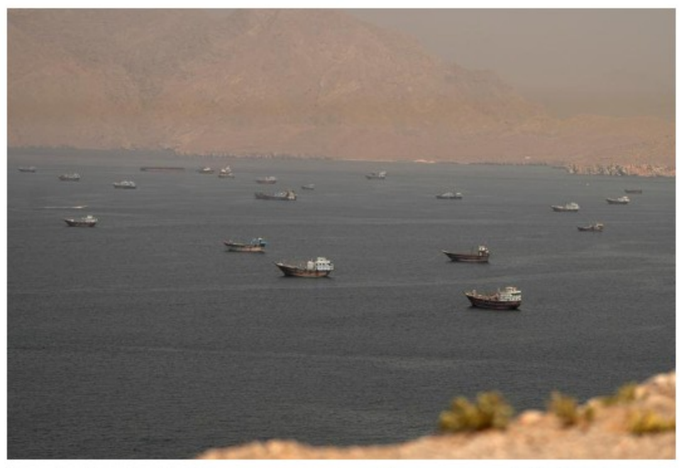
Ajith Sukumaran: Only recently has society started realising the importance of shipping, but unfortunately from a negative point of view. Whether it was the Titanic, the Exxon Valdez incident, or more recent maritime accidents, shipping has often been in the news for the wrong reasons. But the fact is that shipping carries around 90% of global trade by volume. It is the lifeline of modern society.

The Ever Given incident in 2021 showed this clearly. A 20,000-TEU container ship blocked the Suez Canal for six days, affecting around 20% of seaborne trade. Hundreds of ships were delayed, and loss to world trade was enormous.

The Strait of Hormuz is equally important. It carries around 11-12% of global seaborne trade, but it is strategically significant because of energy transportation. Nearly 25% of fossil fuels and around 20% of LNG move through this route. For India, this is critical because more than 85% of our energy requirements are imported, and almost all of it comes via ships.

But we often talk only about ships and cargo. Ships do not move on their own. They are operated by people. Seafarers take these vessels through difficult and risky situations, and society needs to recognise their contribution. These are high-value and high-risk assets, and they need competent professionals.

Modern cargoes also involve huge risks. LNG carriers, for example, carry enormous energy potential, yet they may be operated by only around 20-21 seafarers. Indian seafarers have been among the most respected in international shipping. They have built a reputation for their discipline and technical competence. Globally, there are around 1.8 million seafarers. India has more than five lakh registered seafarers, of whom around 3.2 lakh are active. This means one in five seafarers in global shipping is Indian. The foreign exchange contribution from Indian seafarers is estimated at between $6 billion and $9 billion annually. Their importance to India is much greater than many people realise.



Vessels at the Strait of Hormuz as seen from Oman on June 18. REUTERS

What is India's position on the sanctions imposed by countries such as the U.S., the U.K. and the European Union?

AS: There is a legal and a practical aspect. There are two broad categories of sanctions. One is UN sanctions, which are binding. The other is unilateral sanctions imposed by individual countries or groups such as the U.S., the U.K., the EU or the G-7. The challenge is that each country has its own list. It is not always easy to draw a line between sanctioned and non-sanctioned vessels. From the government's perspective, the issue is also practical. India has to protect its trade and its seafarers while dealing with international realities.

Should the government track these vessels and advise Indian seafarers not to join them?

AS: Whether India should impose a blanket ban is a political decision. Such a move would have consequences because India imports energy from different countries and employment is also important. The Directorate General of Shipping has issued guidelines that seafarers should be aware of the type of vessel they are joining and the risks involved. But every sanctioned vessel is not necessarily unsafe. If it is not operating in regions enforcing those sanctions, the situation changes. Therefore, it is not easy to identify every vessel and prohibit Indians from joining it.

What is the legal position on these sanctions and on the arrest of the captain in the U.K.?

> The Directorate General of Shipping has issued guidelines that seafarers should be aware of the type of vessel they are joining and the risks involved. But every sanctioned vessel is not necessarily unsafe
> AJITH SUKUMARAN

Biswanath Gupta: There are two kinds of sanctions. UN Security Council sanctions passed under Chapter VII of the UN Charter are binding under international law. Unilateral sanctions are more contested. They are technically limited to the jurisdiction of the country imposing them, but powerful states often try to enforce them beyond their territory. In international law, this is highly contested – whether those sanctions are binding or non-binding. If a strong country is applying sanctions, they are binding by nature.

Regarding the Indian captain, international law raises the question of jurisdiction. India can question whether the British court has jurisdiction, especially if the incident occurred on the high seas. Another option is diplomatic protection. If an Indian citizen is affected by a violation of international law abroad, India can intervene. Regarding missile attacks on ships, the issue comes under the law of armed conflict in the United Nations Charter. Questions arise about necessity, proportionality and whether proper warnings were given. If sufficient warning was not given, India can take the issue to the international court.

International maritime law has always been important because many principles of international law developed through the law of the sea. Existing maritime frameworks can be useful in protecting seafarers.

Has India signed such maritime agreements?

BG: Yes, India is part of important international maritime frameworks. Since India has a large number of seafarers working globally, these agreements are significant. Some reports suggest that seafarers killed in conflict zones were pressured to enter dangerous areas with threats relating to wages, employment. These issues can be examined through international mechanisms.

What is the difference between dark fleet vessels and sanctioned vessels?

AS: Dark fleet vessels are identified through certain criteria. These may include fraudulent registration, false insurance documents, illegal ship-to-ship transfers, or switching off identification systems. The case of the Indian captain arrested in the English Channel was different. The issue was related to the vessel's registry and whether it was considered stateless. The ship apparently had Cameroon registration but midway through the voyage, before entering the English Channel, the ship seems to have lost the registration. We don't know how that happened. A ship must have a proper flag state. So the legal cover was that the ship was stateless. But whether the master should be held responsible is a separate question, because a captain may not always know about administrative issues.

Given this situation, what should India do?

BG: India should focus on diplomatic engagement. International platforms such as UNCLOS [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea] provide a space where countries can negotiate and raise concerns. The International Labour Organization is also important because seafarer welfare and rights are discussed there.

But should the government tell Indian seafarers not to join these ships?

BG: That cannot be the approach for a country like India. Much of our trade happens through the sea, and shipping is also an important source of employment. These global platforms remain important for protecting our interests.

AS: Yes, it can be done. Recruitment in India happens through agencies licensed by the Directorate General of Shipping, and any directions issued by the DG Shipping are binding on them. The government could maintain a dynamic list of sanctioned or high-risk vessels and require recruitment agencies to exercise caution while placing seafarers on them.

In many cases, vulnerable seafarers – those struggling to find employment or facing certification and documentation issues – are being targeted by agents and drawn into risky jobs. These seafarers often become innocent scapegoats in larger geopolitical conflicts.

The government has already taken an important first step by requiring seafarers to be informed. But awareness alone is not enough. The vulnerability remains, and in such circumstances, I believe the government has a responsibility to step in.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

A surgeon's paradoxical lesson for journalists to survive the news

Unlike others, journalists have a tough time getting away from the news – but there happens to be a seemingly precarious way to do it

Vasudevan Mukunth

In an episode of the TV show *Elementary*, a surgeon prepares to perform a surgery. After he dons his gloves and mask, with his students watching from the back, he plays some funny music from speakers. The students are pleasantly surprised. The surgeon turns around and tells them that they will need to learn to take performing surgeries easy. That they should not let 'it' get to them. What he means is that if a surgeon puts herself under pressure because a life is at stake, she could make more mistakes and further endanger that life.

The protagonist in the Tamil film *Doctor* stands for a similar idea, and it taught me something about remaining a journalist. Journalism done properly can exact a particular psychological toll. Just the developments pouring in from different parts of the world add to the ordinary unhappiness of the human condition. Investigative journalism, news analyses, and perceptive and knowledgeable commentary can exacerbate adverse thoughts, and make one feel helpless and one's work seem too small, even negligible, in the face of the world's profound challenges.

Some journalists who are on the ground reporting on trauma and grief often have it worse. We sometimes talk to our colleagues, friends, and family members about feeling despondent due to being journalists specifically.

Social media platforms' preference for noise, tolerance for bots, and embrace of artificial intelligence has only made matters worse.

Since graduating from journalism school and starting work, most of my batchmates have left the profession. They have done so for various reasons but one common refrain has been "the stress is not worth it". It does not mean that those who have stayed back have elected to live with stress. They have probably found a way to manage it, especially the specific variety that comes with being a journalist.

For instance, like the surgeon in *Elementary* who treats each surgery as just another task he has been trained to do, I treat many news developments as just more pieces of information I have learnt to respond to. Earthquake in Venezuela? Let us write an explainer. Climate talks failed? Think about who can write a news-analysis. Government approves drug without proper testing? Ask a medical researcher if she can write a commentary piece. Then move on.

In these instances, I have learnt to not take the information to heart. I do not think about what it means for the world, for society or for my beliefs. It is neither cause for despair nor source of hope. And it is only possible because there are others who care more so I do not have to (division of labour), freeing me up to efficiently collect, clean up, organise, and communicate knowledge. Sometimes, the problem is really that if you care too much, it could get in the way of you doing your job.

This psychological device also carries risks that we need to constantly beware and minimise.

One is that of reducing human tragedies to items on a checklist. Another is to not lose sight of the empathy required to narrate or edit a story with the requisite gravitas.

If I stop sensing the weight of the news, I could stop sensing the humanity of the people within. I also need to militate against the division of labour leading to a hollowed-out version of journalism that informs the head but ignores the heart. There is no free lunch.

But I have personally found this to be more maintainable than always feeling the weight in full. There are also those few topics where I really do care, perhaps even too much, like democratising scientific publishing.

The next time you meet a journalist, ask them how they are managing their stress. It is probably why they are still at it.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A swirling vortex in the wild

Spinning top: A rare tornado-like funnel cloud formed amid a sudden downpour near Pudukottai and Vaagaikulam in Thoothukudi district, Tamil Nadu on June 21. The tornado ripped off the roof of a few structures in the mini theme park near the Vaagaikulam toll plaza. However, no fatalities were reported. PTI

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 26, 1976

All crew of sunken ship rescued

Visakhapatnam, June 25: All the 28 crew members of the ill-faten Greek ship, "Elasta Piracus" that sank near the Andamans on June 20 were rescued to-day by the Eastern Naval Command after an intensive search.

They were noticed drifting towards the west coast of the Middle Andamans, 90 km north of Port Blair, by an Indian Air Force plane and the Shipping Corporation of India vessel, "Viswa Anand". Life boats were lowered by the ship and the crew members rescued around noon.

A spokesman of the Eastern Naval Command here said the operations were carried out by the Naval-officer of Andaman Nicobar, under guidance from Vice Admiral Swaraj Parakash, Flag Officer Commanding in Chief, Eastern Naval Command.

The Greek ship, carrying 10,000 tonnes of milled scrap had left Paradeep Port on June 17. Water entered the ship on the night of June 19. An SOS was sent to the Vizag base on June 20 when search operations began by the Naval ships, IAF and merchant ships.

Samachar reports: "Viswa Anand" picked up the survivors from Rocky Island and proceeded to Port Blair.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 26, 1926

Cow's brain from cow's milk

The sittings of the International Vegetarian Union Congress were resumed at the Central Hall, Westminster.

Dr. Stavros Damoglod (Greece), dealing with the question, "What is true vegetarianism," said that during the twelve years he had practised in London he had advised abstinence from dairy produce to hundreds of patients. He would say, without any hesitation or fear of contradiction, that anyone who indulged in large quantities of cow's milk developed the brains and mentality of a cow, and was only a cow in human form.

From Page One

188 dead, 1,500 hurt in Venezuela earthquakes

Officials were trying to make the most of the daylight hours to rescue people believed to be trapped under the rubble, the Interim President said.

"Deeply saddened by the devastation caused by the severe earthquakes in Venezuela," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a statement. "We pray for the speedy recovery of those injured and stand in solidarity with all those affected... India stands ready to extend all possible assistance," he said.

The U.S. "stands ready, willing, and able to help," President Donald Trump said in a social media post.

"We have a whole-of-government response. It will be big, it will be fast, and it will be effective," U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters during a visit to Bahrain, saying his country's military would play a "big logistical role". Washington is closely involved in oil-rich Venezuela after U.S. forces captured President Nicolas Maduro in January.

(With inputs from AP and Reuters)

Three States close ranks on Tungabhadra basin

The Chief Ministers said the three States have arrived at a historic consensus to safeguard the interests of farmers in the Tungabhadra basin.

Ahead of the inauguration, the three Chief Ministers held a nearly hour-long meeting with Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil to discuss key irrigation issues concerning the three States.

Desilting of the Tungabhadra reservoir, where an estimated 33 tmcft of silt has accumulated over the years significantly affecting its storage capacity, was discussed.

Mr. Patil said the Union government will first dredge the Tungabhadra dam as part of its larger plan to desilt major reservoirs.

He said the Chief Ministers had expressed their commitment to extend full cooperation in the exercise.

Pointing out that silt accumulation had reduced the storage capacity of many dams, including the Tungabhadra, Mr. Patil said that, as per the proposed programme, the Centre will provide the technical support, and the dredging would be completed at the earliest possible time with the involvement of the three States.

Calling the replacement of all the 33 spillway gates of the Tungabhadra dam "historic", Mr. Shivakumar said it was done in the larger interest of farmers and the long-term safety of the reservoir.

Govt. restores LPG supply to pre-war level

"In a major relief to industrial and commercial LPG consumers, the government has removed all sectoral restrictions on the supply of non-domestic packed LPG and restored supplies to the levels prevailing prior to the West Asia crisis," the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas stated.

At the peak of the crisis in early March, the government had issued orders to temporarily restrict the supply of commercial LPG. This was gradually eased to provide 70% of the pre-crisis level requirements across multiple tranches – including the conditional 10% allocation to States and Union Territories for facilitating expedited transition to piped natural gas (PNG).

The Ministry stated that it continued to retain its resolve to expand PNG coverage. At the peak of the crisis, the government had called for a transition to PNG in a bid to ease pressure on LPG.

CBI searches 80 locations in 16 States over 'digital arrests'

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

In a crackdown on the cybercrime infrastructure facilitating "digital arrest" scams, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) searched more than 80 locations across the country over the past week in connection with 200-plus cases. It has arrested two accused so far – Naresh from Chennai, Tamil Nadu, and Sanjib Saha of Kolkata, West Bengal.

Under Operation Chakra-VI, the agency formed 60 special teams and conducted coordinated searches in Punjab, Gujarat, Delhi, Maharashtra, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Assam, West Bengal, Manipur, Karnataka, and Odisha. "The searches were carried out as part of an ongoing investigation aimed at dismantling a targeted operational network involved in over 200 cases of digital arrest scams," said the agency.

The arrested accused were involved in the incorporation of shell companies and the opening and operation of mule bank accounts. These accounts were used for laundering about ₹2 crore of suspected proceeds of crime, the CBI said.

Recently, the agency unearthed a fraudulent website with a URL deceptively similar to the official website of the Supreme Court. Based on a complaint received from the Registry of the Supreme Court, the agency registered a case and launched an investigation.

In blockaded part of Manipur, an LPG cylinder now sells for ₹5,000

40 people killed in the State since President's Rule was revoked in February; Deputy CM blocked from travel to Imphal; rice and petrol prices more than double in Kangpokpi district; efforts are on to ensure movement of convoys carrying essentials

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

In limbo: Truckers have frequently demanded better security for convoys carrying essential supplies in Manipur. FILE PHOTO

Prices of essentials such as rice, petrol, and cooking gas have spiralled in Kangpokpi district of Manipur over the last month, due to a severe economic blockade being imposed since May 13, when three Thadou pastors were killed in the Kuki-dominated district.

The blockade is so severe that Deputy Chief Minister Nemcha Kipgen, who represents Kangpokpi in the Manipur Assembly, is yet to travel to the State capital, Imphal, since the elected government was restored after President's Rule was revoked. Four months after she took oath, she still virtually attends the meetings called by Chief Minister Y. Khemchand Singh in Imphal.

At least 40 people have been killed in Manipur since February 4, when President's Rule was revoked, in a fresh wave of ethnic conflict that has now spread to the Naga and Kuki communities. The northeastern State is inhabited by three major communities: the Meitei who dominate the Imphal valley and the tribal Kuki-Zo and Naga people who largely live in the surrounding hills. So far, around 300 people have been killed since ethnic violence, initially between Meiteis and Kukis, erupted in the State on May 3, 2023.

Due to Kangpokpi's location – surrounded by the Naga-dominated Senapati district in the north and the Meitei-dominated valley districts in the south – transportation of essential items has been severely affected, with Naga village volunteers imposing a blockade on goods entering from outside the State.

Despite initiatives taken by the State government, daily items are scarcely available, according to Haokholet Kipgen, the MLA from Saitu constituency in Kangpokpi. There is no supply of LPG cylinders and those already in the district are being sold for ₹5,000 in the black market. A 50-kg bag of rice, which cost ₹1,400 to ₹1,700 before the blockade is now being sold at ₹4,000, the MLA told *The Hindu*.

Thangminlen Kipgen, president of Sadar Hills (Kangpokpi), a civil society group, said there has been a noticeable difference in administration since the elected government was restored, but the district's access to National Highway-2, which connects it to Dimapur in Nagaland has been blocked since May 13. About 70% of daily supplies are brought to Kangpokpi through the arterial road, he said.

Local inflation

"It is always the poor who are affected by such incidents. Because of shortage of cooking gas, people switched to induction tops, which is leading to frequent power cuts of seven to eight hours. The cost of transportation has gone up. A litre of petrol costs ₹250 to ₹280. There is no way to control this local inflation. It has an effect on all commodities," Mr. Kipgen said.

A senior security force official confirmed that several groups have been placing illegal blockades along NH-2, and added that efforts are on to ensure the movement of convoys carrying essential supplies. Over the past week, around 30 bunkers set up by village volunteers have been dismantled, the official said.

After the bodies of six missing Naga men, including two pastors, were recovered on June 10 from Kangpokpi, the blockades have intensified. The six men and their family members were abducted on May 13 following the killing of three Thadou church leaders in an ambush the same day in Kangpokpi.

At least 44 civilians were reportedly taken hostage by Kuki and Naga groups in Kangpokpi and Senapati districts. While several of those abducted were released earlier, 14 members of the Kuki community who remained in captivity were released on June 9, a day before the bodies of the Naga hostages were recovered.

Kuki-Zo body admits six Nagas were killed by Kukis

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Kuki-Zo Council (KZC), the apex body of the Kuki-Zo tribes in Manipur, on Thursday admitted that members of their community executed six Liangmai Naga villagers who were abducted after three Thadou church leaders were killed in an ambush more than a month ago.

Owning up to the "great mistake" in a video while addressing media persons, KZC chairman Henlianthang Thanglet said the six Naga men were killed during an outburst of emotion. "I really criticise it," he said in the company of KZC spokesperson Ginza Vualzong.

This was the first known public expression of regret by any Kuki individual or civil society organisation over the killing of the six Naga civilians. Their whereabouts were not known until security forces recovered their decomposed and dismembered bodies on June 11.

On June 8, the National Investigation Agency took over the probe into the killing of the three Thadou church leaders.

Mahesh Dixit

Mahesh Dixit appointed Intelligence Bureau chief

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Mahesh Dixit, a 1993 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre has been appointed as Director, Intelligence Bureau (DIB), a government order said.

He succeeds Tapan Kumar Deka, who held the post since 2022. His tenure ends on June 30.

Mr. Dixit, a medical doctor by education, has led the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) desk and has also served in Nagaland and Bihar.

He was Deputy Director of IB in J&K from 2009-12 and from 2012-15, he was posted in Nagaland.

He took charge of the Subsidiary Intelligence Bureau (SIB) of J&K in 2020 and served there till 2024, overseeing the security preparedness and intelligence-based operations post revocation of Article 370 in the erstwhile State.

He is among the Home Ministry officials who are engaged in talks with civil society leaders of Ladakh.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on Thursday approved the appointment of Mr. Dixit, Special Director, IB as Director, Intelligence Bureau for a tenure of two years from the date of assumption of the charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier, the order said.

Due to retire in August 2027, he has been granted extension in service under the provisions of FR 56d) and Rule 16 (1A) of All India Services (Death cum Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958, the order said.

Toll in Kolkata warehouse collapse rises to 11; Bengal CM orders audit of building plans

Shiv Sahay Singh
Senjuti Sengupta
KOLKATA

NDRF personnel on Thursday check the site where a warehouse under construction collapsed in the Taratala area of Kolkata. ANI

The death toll in the Kolkata warehouse collapse increased to 11 on Thursday. Nineteen of the injured are undergoing treatment in the State-run SSKM Hospital. Three 17-year-old workers are among the 11 deceased from West Bengal and Bihar.

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari announced a compensation of ₹10 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased and ₹1 lakh to the injured. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also announced a compensation of ₹2 lakh to the kin of those who lost their lives and ₹50,000 to the injured.

Speaking in the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Adhikari said a first information report (FIR) had been registered and five persons had been arrested. He claimed the building design was faulty.

The Chief Minister announced suspension of all ongoing construction projects in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation area and adjoining areas of Rajarhat, Sonarpur, Baruipur and Maheshtala, adding that building plans in these areas would undergo a comprehensive audit.

Mr. Adhikari announced that a high-level committee had been constituted for the purpose, headed by Rajesh Pandey, IAS, which will submit a report in seven days. Mr. Adhikari blamed the former Trinamool Congress regime for the irregularities and corruption that resulted in the accident.

"About 12.05 p.m., one under-construction warehouse on Transport Depot Road in Taratala collapsed and a few labourers got stuck under the debris. Five of them were declared brought dead to the hospital. The rescue operation was conducted by the Kolkata Police DMG, KMC personnel, fire services personnel, civil defence and NDRF. The operation is still continuing," said Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime), Kunal Agrawal.

The FIR has been lodged under Sections 105/110/3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which amount to culpable homicide not amounting to murder, attempt to commit culpable homicide and joint criminal liability.

The FIR named six persons of whom structural engineer Kamal Samanta, Syed MD Gulzar Hussain, Sambhunath Behera, Dibakar Bhandari and Abdul Hamid were arrested.

The accident occurred on Wednesday when the multi-storey warehouse being constructed by a private operator on land leased out by the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Authority (SMPA) came crashing down.

One rescued alive

Rescue operations continued on Thursday and at least one person was rescued alive. The heavy rain on Thursday afternoon hampered the rescue operations.

According to those present at the site, 50 to 60 people were at work when the accident took place. Local people said they heard several workers buried under the debris crying out for help. Attempts were made to drill a hole through the debris and reach out to the trapped workers, and oxygen and food were made available.

Muslim bodies denounce demolitions of religious structures, seek legal relief

Ziya Us Salam
NEW DELHI

Several prominent Muslim bodies have united to condemn the spate of demolitions of mosques, madrasas and dargahs across Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh. They have also decided to seek legal relief over these actions.

Arshad Madani, president, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind said: "An undeclared emergency is effectively in force in the country today. Demolishing people's homes and places of worship while disregarding legal procedures and court rulings is contrary to the fundamental principles of the Constitution. If governments begin dispensing justice through bulldozers instead of courts, what is the meaning of the rule of law and citizens' rights? The government cannot act as a judge; determining legality and illegality is the responsibility of the judiciary alone."

His viewpoint was supported by the spokesman of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind who expressed "grave concern over demolition drives affecting religious structures, residential buildings and vulnerable communities across several States" and promised legal help for those fighting demolitions carried out without following the due process of law.

"Jamaat-e-Islami Hind will continue to support the victims of these demolitions and advocate for their rights at all levels," the spokesman said.

In a separate conference, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) bemoaned the marginalisation of minorities as manifest in the demolition of mosques in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer, Barmer and Bikaner. The Board promised to launch a "nationwide movement in collaboration with justice-loving people from across communities" against social and political marginalisation of Muslims. Zafarul Islam Khan, former chairman, Delhi Minorities Commission, expressed similar concern at the spate of demolitions of Muslim places of worship even as he called upon the youth to maintain calm.

The Muslim bodies decided to file petitions in the high courts in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to restore the mosques demolished as well as for those mosques that have been served eviction notice.

Passport application fee to go up from July 1

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The application fee for an ordinary fresh passport containing 36 pages has been hiked from ₹1,500 to ₹2,500, as the Union government revised the passport fee structure through an amendment to the Passports Rules, 1980.

The new rules will come into effect from July 1.

According to a notification dated June 20, and published by the Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday, the reissue of a 36-page passport will also cost ₹2,500. A tatkal application for a fresh or reissued passport will cost ₹5,000 as opposed to the current ₹3,500 rate.

Similarly, the application fee for an ordinary fresh passport or reissue of a passport containing 60 pages has been hiked from ₹2,000 to ₹3,500. The tatkal fee for 60-page passports will be ₹6,000 as against the current ₹4,000.

APPEAL

Master Sayyed Affan Mubin, Christian Medical College Hospital No.AI74138, 5 years has been Diagnosed to have Thalassemia Major. This is a type of Life-Threatening Blood Disorder. The best option for him would be to undergo Allogeneic Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Transplant (PBSCT). The estimated cost of PBSCT at this hospital is approximately Rs.16, 00,000/-.

Please send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O Fav. **Save Poor Lives** A/c Sayyed Affan Mubin, **Our A/c Details:** S/B A/c No. 20000913487. S.B.I. R.A.Puram, IFSC CODE:SBIN0001855. Please Donate by G-pay No.9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. Donations are exempted under 80G of I.T.ACT.

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FIR filed against 8 persons over 'embezzlement' at Ram Temple

It mentions charges of fraud, criminal conspiracy, and breach of trust; the SIT had submitted its preliminary report two days ago; Opposition parties say powerful people who oversaw the whole process of donation collection are being protected

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Ongoing row: The FIR was filed based on a complaint by Krishna Mohan, a member of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Trust. FILE PHOTO

The Uttar Pradesh Police on Thursday registered a first information report against eight persons over allegations of embezzlement of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

The FIR was registered based on a complaint by Krishna Mohan, a member of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Trust. It mentions eight individuals – Ramashankar Yadav, alias Tinnu; Manish Yadav; Luvkush Mishra; Karunesh Pandey; Rama Shankar Mishra; Subhash Srivastava; Anukalp Mishra; and Avinash Shukla – and other unidentified accused. It mentions charges of embezzlement, fraud, criminal conspiracy, and breach of trust under various Section of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

The FIR comes two days after a Special Investigation Team submitted a preliminary report of its findings to the State government on Tuesday.

Reacting to the development, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav described it as a glimpse of injustice. He added that powerful culprits would be protected. "This will be a glimpse of injustice under BJP rule. The small will be hanged, the branches will be forgiven. The public is saying that first, under the pretext of SIT, all the evidence would have been cleared and it would have been decided which big fishes are to be saved and who is to be trapped, only after that the FIR is being lodged. It seems the report would have been prepared and given to the SIT first and the investigation would have been conducted accordingly, meaning the conclusion would have been drawn first," he wrote on social media platform X.

Uttar Pradesh Congress unit president Ajay Rai alleged that the FIR had been filed just to silence the anger of common devotees of Lord Ram. He added that the State government was trying to save big people like Champat Rai.

"Orders have been issued to register an FIR in the theft at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. But, in the FIR, driver and small culprits are named. The government is trying to protect real culprits like Champat Rai Bansal and other Trust members who oversaw the whole process of donation collection. Without their permission and active involvement such a massive theft cannot occur, amid so much security and the presence of so many police," said Mr. Rai.

Tough action sought

Vishwa Hindu Parishad international president Alok Kumar on Wednesday called for a comprehensive investigation and an FIR into allegations of irregularities in donations collected for the Ram Janmabhoomi temple, saying those found guilty should face the strictest legal action.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on June 19 said "truth will prevail" after the SIT completed its probe.

Opposition seeks rollback of new FCRA Rules, flags impact on civil society

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

K.C. Venugopal

Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal and Communist Party of India (Marxist) Rajya Sabha leader John Brittas have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, respectively, seeking the withdrawal of the recently notified Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2026, arguing that the changes would adversely affect the functioning of civil society organisations.

The new rules, notified on June 22, require non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to register under one of five categories – social, economic, educational, cultural, and religious – with separate activity lists prescribed for each. Organisations must also disclose details of their activities, geographical scope, websites, social media accounts and publications, and pay separate fees for each category and State or Union Territory in which they operate.

In his letter to Mr. Modi, Mr. Venugopal said the amendments amounted to an attempt to curb the independence of NGOs. "These rules are an overt and systemic assault on India's civil society, designed not to regulate, but to strangulate the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that form the backbone of our grassroots developmental and social welfare frameworks," he wrote. He argued that forcing NGOs to choose from a "rigid, government-mandated list" of activities and restricting their operational geography would undermine their ability to respond to emergencies.

Constitutional concerns

In his letter to Mr. Shah, Mr. Brittas raised constitutional concerns, arguing that the amendments go beyond financial regulation and alter the nature of oversight over voluntary organisations. "Collectively, these changes signify a decisive shift from regulating foreign contribution to regulating voluntary organisations themselves," he wrote. He said the rules introduced vague and undefined terms such as "proselytisation," which could lead to arbitrary interpretation.

Punjab CM says 'mask' used to create fake video

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Bhagwant Mann

Amid the ongoing controversy over an objectionable video, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday said a conspiracy had been hatched to malign his image on religious grounds, even as the Opposition parties accused the Chief Minister of misleading the people of Punjab with diversionary statements.

Mr. Mann alleged that a Canada-based person, whom he identified as Jagman Samra, had used a mask resembling his face to create the video. "The fake video was filmed in a hotel in Canada, whereas I have not visited the country since 2016. The mask was clearly visible in the video and my neck surgery scar was missing. The makers of the fake video have been identified and will be exposed after verification," he said at a press conference here. He said the matter would be placed before the Akal Takht, the highest Sikh temporal seat, along with the evidence.

On June 15, the Sikh clergy at Akal Takht had declared Mr. Mann *Guru Dokhi* (a betrayer of the Guru) and *Khalsa Panth Virodhi* (opponent of the Sikh community).

'For political benefit'

"For the past several days, a fake and fabricated video of mine has been circulated repeatedly. Religious directives were also issued only to derive political benefit," Mr. Mann said.

Cong. flags 'systemic' exam failures, launches nationwide campaign to reach out to students

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Gaurav Gogoi

Recurring examination irregularities are evidence of a massive institutional failure, senior Congress leader and president of the party's Assam unit Gaurav Gogoi said on Thursday, announcing the launch of "*Chhatron Ki Goonj*", a 40-day nationwide campaign to highlight issues affecting students.

Mr. Gogoi said repeated instances of paper leaks and disruptions had created a perception among students that the problem was "systemic" rather than the fault of a few individuals. "The trust of India's students has been broken. Who will take responsibility for so many broken dreams?" he said. The government has to be held accountable for the injustice done to students and the parents who are shouldering the financial burden, he added.

As part of the campaign, the Congress plans to engage with students and collect feedback on issues ranging from examination paper leaks and recruitment delays to broader concerns in the education sector.

According to NSUI leaders, the campaign was launched simultaneously at 28 locations across the country. It will involve outreach in educational institutions, town hall meetings, corner meetings, public dialogues and pamphlet distribution. Students affected by examinations such as NEET, JEE and SSC, as well as those facing issues related to school education, will be contacted during the campaign, they said. The organisation has also introduced a registration mechanism through a QR code and a missed-call facility to enable students to share grievances.

Referring to recurring controversies surrounding examinations, Mr. Gogoi said many students believed the problems reflected deeper institutional shortcomings. "When it gets repeated every year, there is this belief among the student community that this cannot be the failure of one individual. This is the failure of an entire system," he said.

He said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had also raised the issue during a recent interaction in Rajasthan's Kota, describing it as a wider crisis affecting the education system. "As a result, the youth of the country are not being able to move forward. If the youth cannot move forward, then the country will not be able to move forward either," Mr. Gogoi said.

Student leaders said the first phase of the campaign would continue till August 9. If their demands were not addressed, they would mobilise students from across the country for a "Delhi Chalo" programme and a protest in the national capital.

Sujata Rout, ex- IAS officer and wife of V.K. Pandian, joins BJD

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Sujata Rout Karthikeyan, a former IAS officer and wife of V.K. Pandian, a close aide of Biju Janata Dal (BJD) supremo Naveen Patnaik, joined the party on Thursday.

The announcement came alongside a strong assertion from Mr. Patnaik, who sought to quell speculation over leadership of the party, stating that he would continue to lead the BJD in the next elections. The statement was intended to put the succession debate to rest.

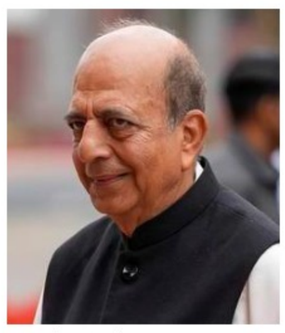
Ms. Rout joined the BJD in the presence of Mr. Patnaik at Sankha Bhavan, the party's State headquarters here. The 2000-batch Odisha-cadre IAS officer had taken voluntary retirement in 2025. Her entry into politics comes in the aftermath of the BJD's defeat in the 2024 elections.

"I would like to welcome Ms. Sujata Rout to BJD. She will be joining as a simple member of the party," Mr. Patnaik said.

The BJD leadership believes that Ms. Rout could help revive the party's crucial women voter base through her extensive grass roots connections.

Envoy takes charge in Dhaka; travel visas to resume

Press Trust of India
DHAKA/NEW DELHI



Dinesh Trivedi

India's new High Commissioner to Dhaka, Dinesh Trivedi, on Thursday announced the resumption of travel visas for Bangladesh nationals as he assumed office.

Earlier, the 76-year-old Bharatiya Janata Party leader presented his credentials to President Mohammed Shahabuddin, marking the start of his diplomatic assignment.

He was named as the envoy to Bangladesh on April 27, becoming the first politician to serve in this position.

The government has granted Mr. Trivedi the status equivalent to a Union Cabinet Minister, according to a government order.

An order issued on Wednesday (June 24) by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said Mr. Trivedi "has been assigned the equivalent status of Union Cabinet Minister in the Table of Precedence (ToP) as a measure personal to him, without amending the Table of Precedence".

Halted two years ago

The travel visas were halted nearly two years ago amid an escalated security situation and deteriorating ties with New Delhi during the Muhammad Yunus-led interim regime.

"I am very happy to be able to announce the launch of general travel visas again. Visa applications can be submitted starting June 28," he said. Mr. Trivedi said visas would be issued from all five centres – Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chattogram, Sylhet, and Khulna – and the process would be expanded further in the future.

The envoy said urgent medical visas would continue to be provided for humanitarian reasons. Travel visas for Bangladeshi nationals typically permit access to India for tourism, medical treatments, government and business assignments.

He arrived in Bangladesh through its western Benapole-Petrapole land border on June 12.

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION VIZAG
RFP Tender Notice No. 12/2026-27/SE(Works - V & PL&C)/EE (Anakapalli, Pendurthi)/DB/GVMC/Dt:25-06-2026
Number of work - 01, Value of work: RFP Tender
Tender Opening Dt. 27.06.2026 @ 05.00 PM, Closing Date.13-07-2026 @ 4.00 PM
Note: Further details at https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in
O/o the SE(PL&C) Cell No.9951532876
For Commissioner

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
NITs: 01/TUFIDC/UNIT-II/SBM 2.0/27 ULBs/2026-27 Dt: 25.06.2026
Name of the work: Sewerage Projects in 27 ULBs under SBM 2.0 under jurisdiction of Nalgonda and Khammam PH Divisions (Package-II) under LS contract system with Hybrid Annuity Model, **Total Cost: Rs. 880.02 Crores;** Bid Download Start Date: **01.07.2026 @ 11.00 AM;** Pre-Bid Meeting Date: **06.07.2026 @ 11.00 AM** @ Conference Hall, 7th floor, O/o ENC (PH), Hyderabad; Bid Submission Start Date: **09.07.2026 @ 11.00 AM;** Bid Submission Closing Date: **27.07.2026 @ 04:30 PM.** For details visit **https://tender.telangana.gov.in.** Contact No:- 8978261291, 9160042233.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (PH),
DIPR R.O.No.4939-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27 Dt. 25.06.2026 TUFIDC, UNIT-II, NALGONDA.

उ. प्र. उर्दू अकादमी, लखनऊ (उ. प्र. सरकार) IAS
اتر پردیش اردو اکادمی، لکھنؤ حکومت اتر پردیش PCS
URDU IAS STUDY CENTRE, LUCKNOW (U.P.)
BEST QUALITY FREE COACHING WITH HOSTEL & FOOD FACILITY
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U.P. Urdu Akademi, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow
Contact No. 9450450484, 9208688770
Last Date for Online Form Submission : 14.07.2026
Date of Admission Test : 19.07.2026
Please Contact Between 10:00 am to 05:00 pm
SHOUKAT ALI SECRETARY
UNMESH MISHRA DIRECTOR

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR
No. : NIT/2026-27/3779 - 88 अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 197/2026-27 Date : 24/06/2026
निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए केन्द्र / राज्य सरकार के अभियांत्रिकी विभागों एवं उनके अधिकृत संगठनों में पंजीकृत एवं अनुभवी संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है

कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की कुल अनुमानित लागत(रु.)
Various Development / Rehabilitation works in 13 Nos. Temple at Sanganer, Jaipur under Unit-IV, Jaipur, RSRDC Ltd., Jaipur. UBN: RRC2627WSOB00311	385.00 Lakh

निविदा से सम्बन्धित प्रपत्र में निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, डाउनलोड करने व खोलने की तारीख सहित सम्पूर्ण विवरण एवं संशोधन वेबसाईट: http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in तथा http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in/rsrdc पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है।
महाप्रबंधक

idco ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR.
TCN No.18961 dt.24.06.2026
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
1. **Name of the Work:** Engagement of Consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for Industrial Parks under Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA).
2. **Availability of tender online for Bidding:**
I. Start Date: 18:00 Hours of dt.25.06.2026.
II. End date: 17:00 Hours of dt.03.07.2026.
III. Opening date: 17:30 Hours of dt.03.07.2026.
Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**. Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in **e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website**.
Sd/- Chief General Manager(P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar
4001/179/2627 OIPR-4001/4075/1/26-27/0062

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Lokseva Bhawan, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar-751001
PT4-HE-IT-MISC-0016-2023-34572/HE, Bhubaneswar, Dated: 25.06.2026
Corrigendum
DEVELOPMENT OF 83 DIGITAL APPLICATION MODULES UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE DIGITAL GOVERNANCE PLATFORM ALONG WITH RESOURCE DEPLOYMENT COMPONENT AND TO INTEGRATE IT WITH EXISTING ERP OF HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

Sl. No.	Reference	Description	Date
1.	Bid Submission Dateline	Last Date & Time for Submission of Proposal	The last date & time for submission of RFP proposals is hereby extended. The revised dateline for submission of Bids: **03.07.2026, 05:00 PM** for wider participation of PSUs.

Sd/- Deputy Secretary to Government
11001/158/2627 OIPR-11001/11001/1/26-27/0019

Government of Odisha
Housing & Urban Development Department
Odisha Urban Housing Mission (OUHM)
(WATCO Building, 3rd Floor, Keshari Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751001)
E-mail- **ouhmodisha@gmail.com,** Phone- **0674-2534432,** Website: **www.urban.odisha.gov.in**
File No. HUD-HU-ADM-0006-2017 **ADVERTISEMENT**
No: 759 Date: 25.06.2026
Applications are invited for appointment to the post of Member (One) in the Odisha Real Estate Regulatory Authority (ORERA) to be appointed in accordance with the provisions of Sections 20,21,22,23 & 24 of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 and Rule 18 & 19 of the Odisha Real Estate (Regulation & Development) Rules, 2017.
The Member of the Odisha Real Estate Regulatory Authority (ORERA) shall hold office for a term not exceeding 5 (five) years from the date on which he/she enters upon his/her office, or until he/she attains the age of 65 (Sixty-Five) years, whichever is earlier and shall not be eligible for reappointment. The Member of the ORERA shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, and the Odisha Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Rules, 2017, made thereunder. The Head Office of the Authority will be at Bhubaneswar.
For complete information on qualification, eligibility criteria, application form and other details, the interested persons may visit and download the same from the Department's website **https://www.urban.odisha.gov.in** or **https://rera.odisha.gov.in.** The last date for receipt of applications complete in all respects is by **03.00 PM** of **Dt.15.07.2026.**
Sd/- (Usha Padhee, IAS), Additional Chief Secretary
13001/986/2627 OIPR-13001/13284/1/26-27/0001

INBRIEF

Air Suvidha 2.0 portal launched for Ebola screening

The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) on Thursday launched Air Suvidha 2.0, an upgraded contactless passenger health self-declaration portal, to strengthen public health surveillance in response to the ongoing Ebola disease outbreak. The WHO had declared the Ebola outbreak in DRC and Uganda as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on May 17. The portal enables passengers to submit a mandatory self-declaration – covering 21-day travel history, exposure history and related symptoms, if any – prior to immigration clearance. The form can be completed 24 hours in advance before arrival.

SC allows actor Jacqueline Fernandez to withdraw plea

The Supreme Court on Thursday allowed actor Jacqueline Fernandez to withdraw her plea challenging a Delhi court order to frame charges against her in a ₹200-crore money laundering case. A Bench headed by Justice B.V. Nagarathna permitted the withdrawal while recording Ms. Fernandez could avail other remedies available to her under the law. A Delhi court on May 30 ordered framing of charges in a case investigated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under the PMLA against the actor, alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekar and 15 others. The actor had moved the apex court against the order.

NCERT introduces 1975 Emergency in Class 9 text

This is the first time a reference has been made to the Emergency at the Class 9 level, while earlier references were limited to Class 12 textbook; it also mentions democratic traditions of early times

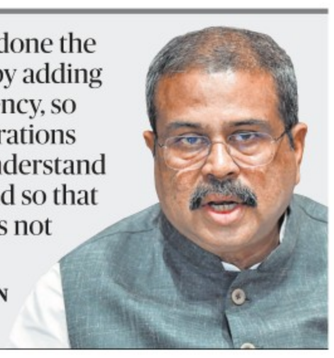
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has introduced the 1975 Emergency in India in its Class 9 textbook *Understanding Society: India and Beyond*. The reference in a chapter examining the strengths and challenges of Indian democracy presents the Emergency as "one of the major challenges to democracy in India".

This is the first time a reference has been made to the Emergency at the Class 9 level, while earlier references were limited to the Class 12 political science textbook. India recently observed 50 years since the declaration of the Emergency.

"In the early 1970s, public dissatisfaction with the government led by Indira Gandhi was growing. Rising unemployment, inflation and allegations of misgovernance led to widespread protests. In June 1975, a National Emergency was imposed by the government on grounds of internal disturbance," reads a section in the chapter under the political science component of the social science textbook.

> NCERT has done the right thing by adding a section on Emergency, so that the future generations should know and understand such 'dark deeds', and so that such a situation does not arise again
>
> **DHARMENDRA PRADHAN**
> Union Education Minister



"During this period, a majority of fundamental rights were suspended, the press was censored, and numerous political leaders and activists were arrested. Democratic institutions came under severe strain, and citizens' freedom was restricted," it adds. The section also highlights the role of Jayaprakash Narayan in the movement against the Emergency.

"Mass movements led by Jayaprakash Narayan – a political leader and socialist thinker, popularly known as Lok Nayak – mobilised students and citizens, especially in Bihar and Gujarat. The Emergency was lifted in 1977, and general elections were held, allowing people to express their will through the ballot. The defeat of the ruling government demonstrated the strength of Indian democracy and highlighted the importance of democracy," reads an excerpt from the book.

In a statement, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said, "NCERT has done the right thing by adding a section on Emergency, so that the future generations should know and understand such 'dark deeds', and so that such a situation does not arise again. NCERT has done a good job."

The textbook also traces the democratic traditions of early times and discusses their contemporary relevance. It mentions the Election Commission and its role in conducting "free and fair elections".

Women's rights

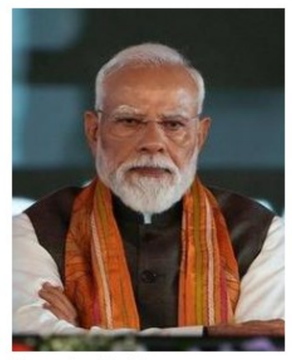
Also, a full page on women's rights and women's reservation in local bodies has been added.

"In a number of countries, women had to wage a long and difficult struggle to secure the right to vote... In contrast, women in India were granted the right to vote... However right to vote does not automatically ensure equal participation. Social prejudices continue to act as barriers and affect women's adequate participation in politics," the excerpt states.

The section on "Challenges to Democratic Practices in India" mentioned spread of fake news, misinformation, damaging public property, violation of public rules, poverty, regionalism, social discrimination, and gender inequality as challenges to democratic practice.

Emergency was a direct assault on Constitution: Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI


Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the Emergency was a direct assault on the Constitution, as it involved the suspension of civil liberties, curbs on freedom of expression, and the arrests of political leaders, journalists, and social workers.

In a post on X on the 51st anniversary of the imposition of the Emergency, Mr. Modi paid homage to all those who steadfastly defended democratic values during "one of the darkest chapters in India's history".

Noting that the period witnessed an assault on institutions that are the bedrock of Indian democracy, the Prime Minister said: "At the same time, it also revealed the extraordinary courage of countless citizens who refused to remain silent and upheld the ideals enshrined in our Constitution."

"For all of us, our Constitution is an embodiment of the aspirations, rights and duties of 140 crore Indians. We reaffirm our collective commitment to safeguarding constitutional values. Guided by the spirit of our Constitution, we will build an India that remains ever committed to justice, liberty, equality and fraternity," Mr. Modi said.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief Nitin Nabin said the Congress, which had launched "the greatest attack on democracy", was now ironically attempting to represent itself as the "foremost self-appointed defenders" of the Constitution.

"If Parliament does not function, the government is blamed. If elections are lost, the system is blamed. If the public does not offer support, institutions are blamed," he said, asking why the Congress had "never offered an unconditional apology" to the country for the Emergency.

New facility launched for transit passengers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu on Thursday launched a facility for transit passengers to complete immigration formalities at their origin airport so that they can bypass the process at transit airports before proceeding to their final destination.

The first service under the model, operated by Air India, was launched from Varanasi on Thursday.

Air India CEO Campbell Wilson said the facility would subsequently be rolled out at Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Vadodara, Kochi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Visakhapatnam.

Mr. Naidu said this hub-and-spoke model would put Indian airports on a par with some of the leading hubs such as Singapore and Dubai.

More drugs to get QR codes amid fight against fake products

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

All vaccines, antimicrobials, narcotic, anti-cancer drugs, psychotropic drugs are included

The Union Health Ministry has notified amendments to the Drugs Rules, 1945, to expand the ambit of Schedule H2 and bring additional categories of drugs under the QR code-based track-and-trace framework.

Under the amended provisions, all vaccines, antimicrobials, narcotic and psychotropic drugs covered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, and all anti-cancer drugs have been included under Schedule H2 of the Drugs Rules, 1945.

With this amendment, manufacturers of these drug formulations will be required to print or affix a bar code or QR code on the primary packaging label of the product or, where there is inadequate space, on the secondary packaging label. The QR code shall store information that can be accessed to facilitate verification of the product throughout the supply chain.

The QR code will contain key product information, including the unique product identification code, generic and brand names, name and address of the manufacturer, batch number, manufacturing and expiry dates, manufacturing licence number, and details of excipients, wherever applicable. The measure is expected to support efforts to curb the distribution of spurious medicines in the market.

Netra, India's airborne surveillance platform, gets final operational nod

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

The indigenous Netra Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system, which played a pivotal role as a force multiplier for the Indian Air Force in the 2019 Balakot strikes and Operation Sindoor last year, was accorded final operational clearance (FOC) on Thursday.

Developed indigenously by the Bengaluru-based Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS), the Netra AEW&C is integrated on the Brazilian Embraer EMB-145I aircraft platform.

The system encompasses a sophisticated suite of mission equipment, including an Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar, Identification Friend or Foe (IFF), mission computer, secure communication networks, electronic support measures (ESM) and communication support measures. India is the fifth country in the world to develop this capability, as Netra can detect, track, identify and monitor airborne and maritime targets enhancing the network-centric operations capabilities of the IAF.

Air Marshal Awadhesh Kumar Bharti and others, pose during a ceremony marking the FOC of NETRA on Thursday. MURALI KUMAR K

Dedication

At an event to mark the occasion, scientists and IAF officers dedicated the achievement to colleagues killed in a tragic air crash in 1999. The seeds of India's airborne warning and control system (AWACS) were sown in the early 1980s.

However, the tragic crash of a modified HS-748 Avro aircraft near Arakkonam in Tamil Nadu, with eight people aboard, including four IAF personnel and four scientists, on January 11, 1999 resulted in the programme being abandoned temporarily.

The programme took off again after being sanctioned afresh in 2004. During this intervening period, scientists kept their perseverance and hoped for the best.

"On January 11, 1999, the ill-fated aircraft had a crash. I salute personnel who were on board, who made their supreme sacrifice. Today we have shown that their sacrifice has not gone in vain. This FOC is dedicated to them," Director-General of Aeronautics Cluster of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), K. Rajalakshmi Menon said.

The Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) for the Netra was accorded in 2015 and it was inducted into the IAF in 2017.

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has approved the development of six more AEW&C Mk-1A systems by the CABS.

FIR against 40 Army personnel for assault in J&K

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

A first information report (FIR) was lodged in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday after 40 Army personnel, including two officers, allegedly barged into a police station and thrashed police personnel, including officers. The police have initiated an inquiry into the incident and the Army said it would extend "full cooperation".

An official said the Army personnel, including a commanding officer and a Major, faced charges under Section 109 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

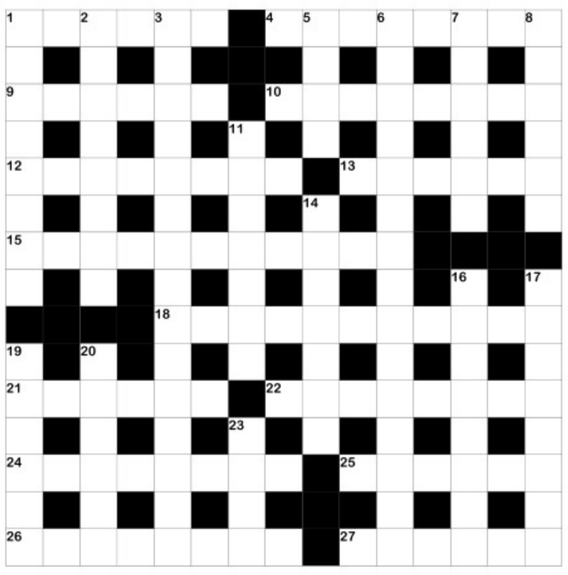
According to the police record, the incident took place around 12.20 p.m. on June 24 at the Atholi police station. The Army personnel attacked the police with "lathis, iron rods, and arms and ammunition".

TH CROSSWORD + 14830

(set by Karaoke)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

1. Leading saint leaves for cold basement (6)
4. He works during strike at beck and call exceptionally? Good, drop case first (8)
9. Discover the truth about doctor breaking law (6)
10. Sovereign force breathes fresh air (8)
12. Nobody gets air in the fiasco (3-5)
13. Supermarkets without essential stock? Get major sales force (6)
15. Burned earth at war? That's a rumour (11)
18. Giving sweetheart to do something dishonest together? (4,2,5)
21. Complains of navigation aid getting weird (6)
22. Sweeper hugs everyone in the dancing hall (8)
24. Bad dolls sorted out in basket cases (8)
25. Take a break Johnson! Make a short visit (4,2)
26. Saddened about the situations offering no progress (4-4)
27. Pursues vigorously without eccentricity and holds power unjustly (6)

DOWN

1. It is very hard to solve conundrum without essential hints (8)
2. Money shortly exchanged in shady deal for something juicy (8)
3. Help a voter primarily with electoral process in a state of disorder (3,4,3,5)
5. Branch is in a state of neglect without chief officer (4)
6. Primarily Lower House got the case law modified to free someone from hanging (5,3,7)
7. Worker interchanges tabletop with laptop in lounge! (6)
8. Girl over-used overshoe? (6)
11. It definitely disturbs others when smartphone primarily kept on silent mode (7)
14. Bowler perhaps covers a part in home ground (7)
16. Associate from Moscow or Kerala (2-6)
17. Better half is without end (8)
19. Leaders rejected salary freeze that existed for a long time (3-3)
20. Headless insensitive person goes back, it's plain (6)
23. It cuts short a sample of promotional book (6)

SUDOKU

			8		3			
1			9				5	
		8					3	6
			2		4	6	1	
2								4
	4	9	1		5			
3	8					7		
	5				7			8
			3		6			

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS6923 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	8	5	4	2	6	9	1	3
2	4	3	1	5	9	6	8	7
9	1	6	7	8	3	4	5	2
5	2	1	3	9	8	7	4	6
3	7	8	6	4	5	2	9	1
6	9	4	2	7	1	5	3	8
8	6	9	5	3	7	1	2	4
1	3	2	9	6	4	8	7	5
4	5	7	8	1	2	3	6	9

FAITH

One who holds all things

The tenth of Muharram stands apart in the Islamic calendar. Ashura, derived from the Arabic *ashara* (ten), arrives as both a summons to remembrance and an invitation to gratitude. For Shias, it is a solemn period of mourning. Hussein – Prophet Muhammad's grandson and the third Shia Imam – refused to yield to tyranny and was killed in the Battle of Karbala on this day in 680 CE.

In Sunni tradition, the day is marked by voluntary fasting – an observance that predates the tragedy at Karbala. Prophet Muhammad came upon Jews fasting in Madinah on the day to commemorate the deliverance of the Israelites from Pharaoh (referring to the parting of the Red Sea). He declares that Muslims had greater right to honour Prophet Musa (Moses) and prescribed the fast. Beyond this foundational event confirmed in Sahih al-Bukhari, several divine interventions are associated with Ashura in classical Islamic narrations. Prophet Yunus (Jonah) was freed from the belly of the whale on this day, illustrating the power of sincere repentance. Prophet Adam's transgression was forgiven by Allah, marking the beginning of human redemption. Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) was cast into a massive fire by King Nimrod, and emerged unharmed through Allah's command - an outcome symbolising unwavering faith. Prophet Ayyub (Job)'s affliction was cured after years of trial and tribulation – the ultimate reward for *sabr* (steadfast patience).Ashura reminds the faithful of one constant: that no trial is final. Every Prophet tested was ultimately upheld – not just by their own strength, but by the mercy of the One who holds all things.

Mohammed Hidhayat

INBRIEF

S&P upgrades Adani Ports to BBB; cites strong cash flows

S&P Global Ratings on Thursday upgraded Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) to investment-grade BBB from BBB-, citing robust cash generation and strengthening balance sheet while maintaining healthy leverage. S&P assigned stable outlook on APSEZ, reflecting expectation that the company will sustain strong operating performance over the next 12-24 months and keep net debt-to-EBITDA ratio at around 2.6 times despite elevated capital spending. PTI

ONGC appoints BP as TSP for Western Offshore Basin

Further expanding on their previous technical services collaboration for Mumbai High Field, State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has appointed British oil major BP as its technical services provider (TSP) for the overall Western Offshore Basin. "The collaboration will seek to moderate natural production decline, improve hydrocarbon recovery and operational efficiency, and support sustained production growth," ONGC said in a statement.

'Big 6 Indian auditors audited 66% of Nifty 500 firms in '25-26

The six largest audit firms in India by number of clients have audited 66% of Nifty 500 companies as of 2025-26, according to PRIME Database data. EY, KPMG, Deloitte, GT Group, BDO Group and PWC Group, including their associates, handled audit consulting of 779 clients in 2025-26, up from 722 the previous year. BDO Group increased client count the most by 17 companies in the past. Deloitte was the only group among the Big 6 that lost six clients in a year, going by the data.

Fresh dispute emerges over Hormuz Strait transit routes

Naval Force of IRGC warns vessels transiting the strait must use only routes officially designated by Iran; 'new shipping route announced by certain authorities sans prior consultation with Tehran'

M. Kalyanaraman
CHENNAI

Turbulent waters: The Oman plan did not refer to Iran by name and only indicated a route along its coast ships could take. REUTERS

Though U.S. President Donald Trump has been repeatedly saying the war is over, conflicts over the Strait of Hormuz are still playing out, albeit without the use of force. The MoU signed between the U.S. and Iran says Iran will conduct a dialogue with Oman, the other littoral state of the strait – considered to be among the few allies Iran has in the region – over the future administration of the strait.

But Iran has indicated that no talks have taken place between the two sides on the issue. Both sides have gone ahead and unilaterally announced plans for the temporary period of ship transit envisaged as covering a 60-day period.

On Thursday, the Naval Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) warned that vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz must use only the routes officially designated by Iran, as per a report by the Islamic Republic News Agency. The agency referred to "a new shipping route [that] had been announced by certain authorities without prior consultation with Tehran."

Two days ago, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) announced an evacuation plan for stranded ships and seafarers in the Persian Gulf that referred to a plan by Oman. Arsenio Dominguez, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), had said: "This large-scale operation will be carried out in close cooperation with Iran, Oman, and all other coastal states in the region, the United States, and the maritime industry." But Iran has now issued a disclaimer to this.

A press conference to be addressed by Mr. Dominguez on Thursday was cancelled at the last minute.

He was expected to address the disparities in the two versions and the fact that the IMO statement referred only to the Oman plan.

The Oman plan did not refer to Iran by name and only indicated a route along its coast that ships could take while transiting. It, however, said the traditional route at the centre of the strait, which some 130 ships used every day to transit the strait, was not safe, referring to mines laid there, and indicated the "northern" route, referring to the Iranian route.

'Dangerous route'

In a statement issued early Thursday, the IRGC Navy described the newly announced route as "unacceptable and extremely dangerous," stressing that it had been introduced without the knowledge or coordination of Iranian authorities.

Since the announcement of the ceasefire, ships had started trickling out through the northern route along Iran with its permission and in coordination with the IRGC Navy.

Several weeks later, however, ships started transiting the strait along a southern route near Oman in coordination with the U.S. Navy. When the war started, it was estimated that some 1,000 to 1,500 ships were stranded west of the Strait of Hormuz. The IMO had indicated that more than 20,000 seafarers were stranded. Two days ago, the IMO brought that figure down to below 11,000 seafarers. Industry sources estimate that at the time of the signing of the MoU, some 500-600 ships were still stranded.

Meanwhile, traffic across the strait has picked up since the signing of the MoU. Lloyd's List estimates that in the week of June 8-14 there were 33 transits. But the following week, when the MoU was signed, some 125 transits took place. This includes some 60 ships that took the Oman route.

Experts are optimistic about eventual cooperation between Oman and Iran. Col. Rajeev Agarwal, a foreign policy expert, says Oman has been the peacemaker in the conflicts and pointed to how the Omani foreign minister was mediating right until the start of attacks by the U.S. and Israel.

Barring a stray missile or two, Iran had refrained from attacking Oman during the war. "Historically, Oman has always maintained a neutral foreign policy. The only trusted and stable relationship in the Gulf region for Iran is with Oman," says Mr. Agarwal, author of the book, "Between Tehran and Tel Aviv - Gaza's Story of Unending War." "Eventually they will work together on the strait."

Amazon to invest additional $13 bn in AI, cloud: CEO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amazon CEO Andy Jassy with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday.

Amazon CEO Andy Jassy on Thursday announced an additional investment of $13 billion to expand AI and cloud infrastructure in India by 2030. This comes within six months of Amazon announcing $35 billion in new investments in the country. Mr. Jassy met Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier in the day at New Delhi and reiterated Amazon's long-term commitment to the country.

The CEO highlighted the growing importance of India, where Amazon operated several businesses including ecommerce, AI and cloud, and entertainment among others. He also noted that the company's India business was on a strong growth trajectory with strong customer demand, especially in e-commerce and AWS business.

"We came to India over a decade ago and have since been serving customers, sellers, developers, start-ups and enterprises through our different businesses. The response has been tremendous, with strong growth especially across our e-commerce, AI, and cloud businesses," Mr. Jassy said.

"As we grow Amazon in India, our business priorities continue to align with India's priorities of democratising access to AI, digitising small businesses, creating jobs, and enabling exports. We are investing over $48 billion in the coming five years to meet the strong demand across our business in India and to help the country achieve these priorities," he said.

This takes Amazon's total planned investment in expanding and supporting AI and cloud infrastructure to over $21 billion between 2026 and 2030, establishing it as one of the largest global AI and cloud infrastructure investors in the country.

According to an Amazon communique, the investment will expand AWS data centre capacity in Mumbai and Hyderabad, giving start-ups, enterprises and government organisations access to custom AI chips, managed AI services, secure and reliable cloud technologies and developer tools to innovate faster, scale rapidly, and serve customers globally.

Amazon's cumulative investments in India from 2010-2030 stand at over $88 billion, as per the company. The company plans to launch over 20 new fulfilment centres and over 100 new last-mile delivery stations this year, ensuring faster and reliable deliveries nationwide, especially in tier 3 and 4 cities.

LIC chief financial officer Agrawal quits

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Life Insurance Corporation of India's chief financial officer (CFO) Sunil Agrawal has resigned to pursue better prospects.

"His resignation will be effective from the close of business hours of July 14 when he would cease to be CFO and key managerial personnel of the Corporation," LIC said.

Mr. Agrawal joined as CFO in March 2022 ahead of LIC's initial public offering. Earlier, he was with Reliance Nippon Life Insurance for more than 12 years and ICICI Prudential Life for over five years.

Puri, Iran Minister hold talks after years of curtailed trade

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

A thaw: Puri with Paknejad on the sidelines of BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting, in Gurugram, Haryana. @HARDEEPSPURI

Indicative of a potential revival in energy cooperation, Union Minister for Petroleum Hardeep Singh Puri met his Iranian counterpart Mohsen Paknejad on the sidelines of the BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting Thursday.

Describing the meeting, Mr. Puri wrote on his social media, 'We explored opportunities to cooperate in the energy sector for a beneficial engagement.'

India halted crude purchases from Tehran in 2019 following U.S. sanctions. As per S&P Global Commodities at Sea data, India purchased 5.18 lakh-barrels/day of Iranian oil in 2018 slowing down to 2.68 lakh barrels/day between January and May 2019 on U.S.'s temporary waiver.

Indian refiners moved away from purchasing the crude until April this year when U.S. offered a temporary 30-day waiver. Kpler data show India imported 1.33 lakh barrels/day of Iranian oil in April

However, the latest peace-deal between Iran and U.S. houses a waiver for "production, delivery and sale of crude oil, petrochemical products and petroleum products" from Iran.

'MSMEs must lead India's innovation push to achieve Viksit Bharat goal'

BL Bureau
BENGALURU

Crucial area: Sharanaprakash Rudrappa Patil at thehindu businessline MSME Growth Conclave Bengaluru-2026. BIJOY GHOSH

India's micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) will play a decisive role in determining whether the country achieves its ambition of becoming a developed economy by 2047, with policymakers and industry leaders calling for a stronger focus on innovation, design, talent and technology adoption at the fifth edition of *The Hindu BusinessLine* MSME Growth Conclave, co-powered by Central Bank of India.

Across discussions on manufacturing, electronics, skilling and entrepreneurship, a common theme rose: India can no longer rely solely on low-cost production and must move up the value chain.

Setting the tone for the conclave, Karnataka Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development Dr. Sharanaprakash Rudrappa Patil urged businesses to think beyond manufacturing. "We should move from 'Made in India' to 'Designed, Engineered and Owned in India'," he said, adding India's MSMEs would determine whether the country becomes a global innovation hub or the world's factory floor.

Addressing the forum, B.V. Naidu, chairman of the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), said India is on track to become a $32 trillion economy by 2047, but warned that achieving developed nation status would require a substantial rise in per-capita income. He argued that MSMEs would play an even greater role than large enterprises in driving economic growth because of their agility and ability to innovate. Mr. Naidu also highlighted the growing importance of the digital economy, noting that Karnataka's digital sector contributes between 35% and 40% of the state's economy. He said government support in areas such as market access, infrastructure, financing and talent development would be crucial, particularly as smaller firms grapple with the rapid adoption of AI.

Focus on IP

That sentiment echoed through the electronics manufacturing panel, where speakers argued that India should focus on building IP and specialised capabilities rather than attempting to replicate China's manufacturing model.

"If anyone thinks we can compete with China by being cheaper, it is not the game," said Sachin Dhruva Naik, founder and chief executive of Cuzor Labs. Sonam Motwani, founder and chief executive of Karkhana.io, noted that India still has a long way to go before matching China's manufacturing scale, while emphasising on the need to build strengths in niche sectors and proprietary technologies.

Electronics opportunity

Ashok Chandak, president of IESA and SEMI India, said opportunities in electronics manufacturing were expanding rapidly across sectors from telecom and industrial equipment to automotive and defence. "Make in India is already done. Got to go beyond, that is, design in India, build in India, secure in India and get trusted worldwide," he said.

Talent and productivity emerged as another key concern. Industry leaders highlighted the widening gap between academic curricula and industry requirements and stressed on the need for closer collaboration between educational institutions and businesses. Several speakers also pointed to artificial intelligence as a force multiplier that could help MSMEs improve productivity without significantly increasing costs.

"I think it's very important to have the people strategy or the people design, from where you're going to get people, what skills are required, and companies need to go down and collaborate with institutions," said Nitin Dave, CEO, Staffing Solution, Quess Corp.

But on an optimistic note, Milky Mist CMDSatish Kumar urged entrepreneurs to think bigger. "Most of the time entrepreneurs are underestimating India. It is an enormous opportunity," he said.

The overarching takeaway from the conclave was that India's MSMEs have a historic opportunity ahead of them – but success will depend on their ability to innovate, embrace technology and move up the value chain.

The event is co-powered by Central Bank of India. The Associate Partners for the conclave are Bank of Baroda, Tally, Punjab National Bank, SSVM Institutions, Canara Bank, Kerala Bureau of Industrial Promotion (K-BIP), Karnataka Bank, Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd, Department of Industries – Government of Bihar, Indian Overseas Bank, Mysore Sales International Ltd and Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited. The Luxury Realty Partner is Puruvankara and Education Partner is Presidency University, while SUV Partner is Mahindra. The State partner is RAMP Programme (supported by the Government of India and World Bank, and implemented by the Government of Karnataka).

Adani unveils six airport-city projects worth ₹20,000 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The first phase of the plan will see the development of about 22 million square feet.

Adani Airport City Limited (AACL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL), has unveiled plans to develop integrated airport cities across its network of airports, with an initial investment of more than ₹20,000 crore.

First phase

The first phase of the programme will see the development of about 22 million square feet of hospitality, retail, entertainment, convention and commercial infrastructure across airports in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Jaipur and Guwahati.

The airport-city developments will be built on a land bank of more than 655 acre spread across six airports in five States. Mumbai and Navi Mumbai account for nearly 440 acre of the total land parcel and will attract almost 70% of the planned investment.

According to the company, the projects are being designed as integrated and walkable urban districts that seamlessly connect airport terminals with metro and city transport networks.

The developments will bring together hotels, office spaces, retail outlets, dining destinations, entertainment venues and convention facilities.

Jeet Adani, director, AAHL said that the initiative draws inspiration from global airport-city models such as Singapore's Changi, Dubai International, Amsterdam Schiphol and Seoul Incheon.

Simaero eyes $100 mn India simulator training unit

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

French aircraft simulator training provider Simaero is set to launch a new pilot training facility, with a planned investment of $100 million that will enable expansion to eight full-flight simulators over the coming years.

Equipped with a single Airbus A320 full-flight simulator, Simaero plans to expand capacity at its training centre in Gurugram progressively, with CEO Nicolas Moute saying the company expects to add four to six simulators over the next five years, depending on demand from airline customers.

WASHINGTON

U.S. Senate sides with Trump in fresh vote on Iran war powers

REUTERS

The U.S. Senate rejected a resolution on Wednesday to rein in President Donald Trump's handling of the Iran war — an apparent U-turn following pressure from the Republican leader. The move came just a day after the Senate voted to pass a resolution calling for an end to Iran war, delivering a rebuke to the White House. AFP

GDANSK

Ukraine says it expects to sign over €10 bn in deals at Poland forum

REUTERS

Ukraine expects to sign deals worth more than 10 billion euros at a reconstruction conference in Poland, its Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko said on Thursday, as the European Union transferred the first tranche of a big loan to Kyiv. She said the deals would cover areas including defence, business and development. REUTERS

MOSCOW

Russia denies pressuring Belarus to widen ongoing Ukraine conflict

AFP

Russia on Thursday denied exerting pressure on Belarus to support an expansion of the war in Ukraine, while Belarus said it was the West that was trying to drag it into the conflict. The *Wall Street Journal* reported on Wednesday that Russia wanted to use Belarus as a springboard to step up attacks on Ukraine. REUTERS

BAGHDAD

Iraq warns it might leave OPEC if oil quota not raised, say sources

REUTERS

Iraq has considered leaving OPEC if the oil producer group does not allow Baghdad to significantly increase oil production, sources with knowledge of the matter told *Reuters*. The prospect of Iraq leaving would be a serious blow to the organisation, which saw the United Arab Emirates walk away less than two months ago. REUTERS

Iran warns against Hormuz Strait crossings without authorisation

Tehran says it plans to impose 'maritime service fees' on ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz; 'If we accepted that you can charge money to use an international waterway, then this will spread throughout the world like a contagion,' says Rubio

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN/MANAMA

Iran's Revolutionary Guards on Thursday warned against any crossings of the Strait of Hormuz without authorisation, saying vessels not complying "will be dealt with", even as U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Washington wanted a deal with Tehran but not "at any price".

The future of the strait, a vital route for energy shipments that was blockaded by Iran during the war, is a key sticking point in negotiations between Tehran and Washington.

Clear stance: Marco Rubio speaks with media persons before departing from Bahrain airport, in Manama on Thursday. AFP

Tehran has said it plans to impose what it calls maritime service fees, as opposed to tolls, while the U.S. argues it is an international waterway and therefore should not be charged. "The only authorised route for passage through the Strait of Hormuz is the route announced by the Islamic Republic of Iran," said the Revolutionary Guards, the ideological arm of Iran's military. Any crossing without authorisation is "unacceptable and extremely dangerous", they warned in a statement. They also denounced what they said was a new route through the waterway announced by "certain authorities".

Mr. Rubio said international waterways do not belong to any nation state. "International waterways do not belong to any nation state. This is a foundational principle in the world today, without which the world would be in total chaos," Mr. Rubio told a Gulf Cooperation Council meeting in Bahrain. "If in fact we accepted that you can charge money to use an international waterway because it happens to be near your territorial space, well then this will spread throughout the world like a contagion."

"While we want a deal, we don't want a deal at any price," Mr. Rubio added. "We want to ensure... that there is no part of this deal... in any way undermines the security, the stability, or the prosperity of any of our partners in the Gulf region."

Suspected attack on ship while crossing Hormuz Strait

Reuters
LONDON/ATHENS

A cargo ship reported a suspected attack as it attempted to pass through the Strait of Hormuz close to the coast of Oman on Thursday, British navy agency UKMTO said. The ship reported being struck on its starboard side by a projectile 7.5 nautical miles southeast of Oman's port of Dahit, the UKMTO said.

Another maritime security source said the vessel was likely targeted by a drone, although it was not clear yet who carried out the strike.

IRGC had said that safe passage through the strait would only be possible through routes designated by Iran.

NATO allies failed to support U.S. in Iran war: Trump to Rutte

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump told NATO chief Mark Rutte on Wednesday he was "let down" by members of the transatlantic alliance who did not back his war against Iran.

"We were let down. We didn't need help on this at all. We demolished [Iran] literally in the first week but it would have been nice if they would have said, 'We'd like to help,'" Mr. Trump said during a meeting with Mr. Rutte in the Oval Office of the White House.

For his part, Mr. Rutte defended the conduct of NATO countries, saying there were close to 5,000 "U.S. planes taking off from bases in Europe" during the war.

Donald Trump

The NATO chief then told presspersons after the meeting that Mr. Trump is "completely committed to the NATO alliance".

Meanwhile, Tehran accused NATO of "complicity" in the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran, after Mr. Rutte noted its support for the U.S. in the conflict.

'France, Italy want to set up multinational coalition in Lebanon'

Agence France-Presse
ANTIBES

France and Italy want to set up a multinational coalition to succeed the UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), French President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday.

"We want to launch a coalition for the post-UNIFIL arrangement, obviously in coordination with the European Union and the United Nations, to strengthen Lebanon's sovereignty and that of its armed forces," Mr. Macron said after talks with Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in the town of Antibes on the French Riviera.

Emmanuel Macron

The new force would help prevent Lebanon's territory from becoming "a foothold for regional escalation," Mr. Macron said.

"Italy and France can absolutely make a difference," the Italian Prime Minister said.

France is one of the biggest contributors to the UN peacekeeping force.

China defends recent patrols in waters east of Taiwan after 'alarm'

Associated Press
BEIJING

China on Thursday defended its recent patrols in waters east of Taiwan, one day after Britain, France and Germany expressed alarm about what they described as "novel Chinese activity".

While the three European countries said the activity, which they did not specifically identify, endangered regional stability, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said China's law-enforcement and patrol activities were aimed at maintaining regional stability and maritime order.

China deployed coast guard ships in response to an announcement by Japan and the Philippines that they would discuss their maritime boundaries in waters that Beijing views as its own.

"These are necessary actions in response to Japan's and the Philippines' manipulation of maritime delimitation issues and infringement upon China's maritime rights and interests," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said at a daily briefing.

A joint statement from the de facto embassies of the three European nations in Taiwan said China's actions threatened regional stability, freedom of navigation and the safety of international shipping.

Bangladesh's Rahman discusses Teesta project during his official visit to Beijing

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, who is on his first official visit to China, on Thursday received Chinese proposals for providing technical assistance for Bangladesh's development plans for the Teesta, a transboundary river shared by Bangladesh and India. The issue featured in talks held at the Great Hall of the People between Mr. Rahman and Chinese Premier Li Qiang, where the two sides signed 13 agreements covering investment cooperation, trade expansion, human resource development, education, health, and media collaboration.

Foreign trip: Tarique Rahman is expected to meet Xi Jinping before the conclusion of his visit on June 26. REUTERS

The Teesta has been a matter of contention between India and Bangladesh, as Dhaka has been demanding a formal sealing of deal that would allow it to secure the necessary amount of water from the river for the lean winter months. The deal was held back earlier because of perceived objections from the erstwhile West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

China has said the Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project would include dredging more than one hundred kilometres of the river, which would allow better management of the river's water and prevent erosion.

Mr. Rahman is expected to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping before the conclusion of his visit on June 26. "MoUs were also signed under the framework of the Global Development Initiative (GDI), covering cooperation in health, education, manpower capacity building, and other development-related areas aimed at strengthening institutional and human resource capacities," Bangladesh PMO's spokesperson Mahdi Amin was quoted as saying by *Prothom Alo*. It was also agreed that Mandarin would be introduced in Bangladesh at the school level.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

NITs: 543/DB/SBM 2.0/44 ULBs/2026-27 **Dt: 25.06.2026**
Name of the work: Sewerage Projects in 44 ULBs under SBM 2.0 under the jurisdiction of Sangareddy, Rangareddy, Nizamabad & Mahabubnagar PH Divisions (Package-III) under LS contract system with Hybrid Annuity Model, **Total Cost: Rs. 1549.69 Crores**; Bid Download Start Date: **01.07.2026 @ 11.00 AM**; Pre-Bid Meeting Date: **06.07.2026 @ 11.00 AM** @ Conference Hall, 7th floor, O/o ENC (PH), Hyderabad; Bid Submission Start Date: **09.07.2026 @ 11.00 AM**; Bid Submission Closing Date: **27.07.2026 @ 04:30 PM.** For details visit **https://tender.telangana.gov.in.** Contact No:- 040-23325849, 9154299724.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (PH)
DIPR R.O.No.4919-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27 Dt. 25.06.2026 **West Circle, Hyderabad**

OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENIGNEER, PWD, ZONE BIKANER
No:-527 Dt.:-16-06-2026
NIB CODE:- PWD2627A1210
NIB NO. 01/2026-27
Bid **(On EPC Mode)** for **Construction of Road over Bridge (ROB) in lieu of Level Crossing No. 83 on Bathinda-Suratgarh Railway Section Km 116/6-7 Over Pilibanga Lakhawali Road (SH-118)** is invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 PM dt. 24.07.2026. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurment portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and DIPR department website. The approximate values of the procurement is Rs. **6171.13** Lakhs.
UBN Code No. PWD2627WLOB05176
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NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR WORKS
Bids for the AUGMENTATION OF Regional water supply scheme for all village of gram panchayat BHASOO, DABARDOOMBA, MOONDIYA, KALA, BHANWATA, LACMIPURA Dhakran UNDER DIVISION MALPURA, DISTRICK TONK including 05 years O&M after 01 year Defect Liability Period under CM BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT 2025-26 (NIT No.02/2026-27 ; Estimated Cost Rs. 1526.86 Lacs) are invited from interested bidders up to 08.07.2026. Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**, **http://sppp.raj.nic.in**) of the State.
UBN No. PHE2627WLOB02112 **(Ram Chandra Rar)**
NIB No. PHE2627A1070 **Additional Chief Engineer**
DIPR/C/11022/2026 **PHED Region Ajmer**

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E mail - statehealthagencykerala@gmail.com
web : www.sha.kerala.gov.in, Ph. No. 0471 4063121
Tender id : 2026_SHA_857361_1
e- Tender Notice
Online Bids are invited from Eligible Third-Party Administrations/Implementation's support Agencies (Licensed with IRDAI) for implementation of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana – Karunya Arogya Suraksha Padhathi (AB PM- JAY KASP) in Public Hospitals. For details on e-Bids submission and tender document, visit the e-procurement portal (https://etenders.kerala.gov.in). Last date for submission of the completed e-bid documents: 10-07-2026 (up to 16.00 Hrs.)
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Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
262713 001835	Procurement of Filler grade Precipitated Calcium Carbonate (in Jumbo Bag) for Unit -I	07.07.2026
262713 002002	Supply of 11kV Switchgear panels for replacement of DBB # 2 in RSPS # 2 at TNPL Unit-I. Bid issue date : 30. 06. 2026 Email : pmd1@tnpl.co.in	21.07.2026
262713 001993	Procurement of Heavy Duty LDPE Shrink Film 80/90 Microns of various sizes	07.07.2026
262713 001994	Procurement of Laminated Wrapper Reel of various sizes (Base 100 GSM with 15 Micron BOPP).	07.07.2026
262713 002037	Procurement of Stretch Film 50 Microns 50 CM Width 50/24 CM Dia	07.07.2026
262713 002024	Sodium Soap (Imported/Indigenous) required for Deinking Plant.	09.07.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/2141/Tender/2026 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

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GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
NIT No: 02/SE/PH/WGL/SBM 2.0/30 ULBs/2026-27/455 **Dt: 25-06-2026**
Name of the work: Sewerage Projects in 30 ULBs under SBM 2.0 under the jurisdiction of Adilabad, Karimnagar and Warangal PH Divisions (Package-I) under LS contract system with Hybrid Annuity Model, **Total Cost: Rs. 1276.04 Crores;** Bid Download Start Date: **01.07.2026 @ 11.00 AM;** Pre-Bid Meeting Date: **06.07.2026 @ 11.00 AM;** @ Conference Hall, 7th floor, O/o ENC (PH), Hyderabad; Bid Submission Start Date: **09.07.2026 @ 11.00 AM;** Bid Submission Closing Date: **27.07.2026 @ 04.30 PM;** For details visit **https://tender.telangana.gov.in.** Contact No:- 8886138590, 8500432315.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (FAC)
DIPR R.O.No.4954-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27 Dt. 25.06.2026 **Public Health Circle, Warangal.**

राजस्थान सरकार
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग वृत अलवर
सा.नि.वि, परिसर, अशोका टाकीज के पास, कचहरी रोड, अलवर
फोन नं.-0144-2737038, E-mail:-sealw.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in
क्रमांकः RajKaj Ref No.: 22830809 दिनांक 13.06.2026
NIT No 06/2026-27
Bids for Construction of Various Road at juridaction Div Rajgarh and Alwar are invited from interested bidder from 16-06-2026 02:00Pm up to 07- 07-2026 06:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (Http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and http://sppp.raj.nic.in of the state and http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website. The approximate value of the procurements is **1934.22/- Lacs.**
UBN No:- 1. PWD2627WSOB04890 2. PWD2627WSOB04891 3. PWD2627WSOB04892 4. PWD2627WSOB04893 5. PWD2627WSOB04895 6. PWD2627WSOB04943
Superintending Engineer
DIPR/C/10935/26 **PWD Circle Alwar**

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा
क्रमांक : 758 दिनांक : 15/06/2026
संशोधित निविदा संख्या-04/2026-27
इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 542 दिनांक 25.05.2026 के द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा सूचना संख्या-04/ 2026-27 अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है।

क्र.सं.	विवरण	पूर्व में	अब यह पढ़ा जावे
1	निविदा की कुल लागत	राशि रू. 3032.55 लाख (जीएसटी रहित)	राशि रू. 3578.40 लाख (जीएसटी सहित)
2	निविदा फार्म मिलने एवं जमा कराने की तारीख	02.06.2026 से 22.06.2026 सांय 6.00 बजे	02.06.2026 से 28.06.2026 सांय 6.00 बजे
3	ऑन लाईन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख	24.06.2026 अपरान्ह 3.00 बजे	30.06.2026 अपरान्ह 3.00 बजे
3	बोली प्रतिभूति जमा कराने की तारीख	23.06.2026 सायं 4.00 बजे	29.06.2026 सायं 4.00 बजे

निविदा लागत राशि रू. 3578.40 लाख (जीएसटी सहित) के अनुसार कुल बिड सिक्यूरिटी बोली प्रतिभूति देय होगी तथा एसबीडी में भी निविदा की राशि जीएसटी सहित पढ़ा जावे। निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।
UBN No. PWD2627WLOB03338
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता
DIPR/C/10819/26 **सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा**

NATIONAL HERO

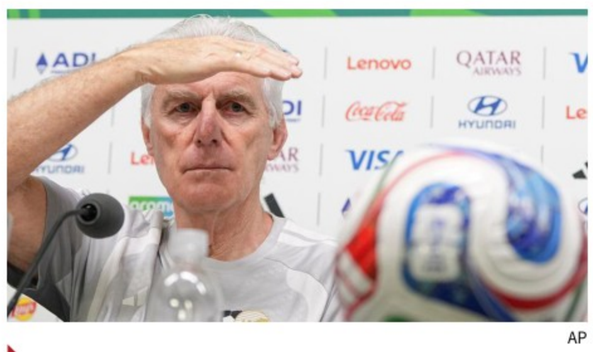
Mexican teammates celebrate Ochoa's return to the big stage

REUTERS

Mexico goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa was given a thunderous reception when he made a substitute appearance on Wednesday. After the final whistle, teammates tossed him into the air in celebration. While this tournament marks his sixth World Cup squad selection, he has made on-field appearances in four.

RESPONDING IN ACTION

We shut up 'big mouths', says SA coach Broos after qualification



AP

South Africa head coach Hugo Broos said that his team had shut up the "big mouths" after the *Bafana Bafana* qualified for the World Cup knockouts for the first time in history. "I am very proud of the performance. I think we gave an answer to all those big mouths who thought that we had to change something," said Broos.

ON A ROLL

Morocco forward Saibari sets new benchmark for African players

AFP

Morocco's Ismael Saibari made history during the clash against Haiti. Saibari is the first African player to score in each of his team's three group-stage matches, having found the net against Brazil and Scotland as well. He is also the first African to score three goals in a single edition since Asamoah Gyan did it for Ghana in 2010.

PUNISHED

Qatar's Madibo gets five-game ban for injuring Canada's Kone

GETTY IMAGES

Qatar player Assim Madibo has been given a five-match ban for the tackle that broke the leg of Canada midfielder Ismael Kone in their World Cup match last Thursday and brought him a red card. The FIFA disciplinary committee said the suspension was for serious foul play and that the decision was subject to appeal.

Brazil eases into the knockouts after thrashing Scotland

Vinicius rises to the occasion again to sparkle with a two-goal contribution while Cunha adds another to his tally; Morocco takes second place in Group C after battling past Haiti in a thriller; Scotland in danger of being knocked out

FIFA WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse
MIAMI

Vinicius Junior made it four goals in three games at the 2026 World Cup as Brazil cruised to a 3-0 victory over Scotland on Wednesday, sealing progress to the last 32 as Group C winner and leaving its opponent in danger of another first-round exit.

Morocco took second spot in Group C with seven points but behind Brazil on goal difference, after coming from behind twice to beat Haiti 4-2 in Atlanta.

Scotland is third with three points and a goal difference of minus three.

It must wait to see if that is enough to finish as one of the eight best third-placed sides that advance to the round-of-32.

Superstar forward Vinicius took advantage of a defensive howler to give Brazil an early lead in Miami and headed in another in first-half stoppage time. Matheus Cunha got a third on the hour mark for the record five-time winner. It brought on Neymar towards the end of the match for his first international appearance in over two-and-a-half years.

There are doubts as to whether Carlo Ancelotti's side is a genuine contender but it has boosted its title chances by topping the group. Brazil's round-of-32 encounter will be against the runner-up in Group F, which will be either the Netherlands, Japan or Sweden.

Haiti bowed out with its first World Cup goals for 52 years as a Yassine Bounou own goal and Wilson Isidor's stunning strike twice gave it the lead. Achraf Hakimi and Ismael Saibari levelled before half-time.

Soufiane Rahimi's deflected effort found the top corner to give Morocco the lead before Gessime Yassine sealed the win.

THE RESULTS

Group A: Czech Republic 0 lost to Mexico 3 (M. Chavez 55, Quinones 61, Fidalgo 90+4); South Africa 1 (Maseko 63) bt South Korea 0.
Group B: Switzerland 2 (Vargas 46, Manzambi 57) bt Canada 1 (P. David 76); Bosnia 3 (Alajbegovic 29, Abunada 34-og, Mahmic 80) bt Qatar 1 (al-Haydos 42).
Group C: Morocco 4 (Hakimi 39, Saibari 45+1, Rahimi 78, Yassine 89) bt Haiti 2 (Bounou 10-og, Isidor 43); Scotland 0 lost to Brazil 3 (Vinicius 7, 45+3, Cunha 60).

In fine form: Vinicius heads in Brazil's second past Scotland. REUTERS

The standings

GROUP C

	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points
Brazil (Q)	3	2	1	0	7	1	6	7
Morocco (Q)	3	2	1	0	6	3	3	7
Scotland	3	1	0	2	1	4	-3	3
Haiti (E)	3	0	0	3	2	8	-6	0

Q: Qualified **E:** Eliminated Source: FIFA

Decisive: Maseko fires South Africa into the round-of-32 with this strike. REUTERS

South Africa makes history; Mexico stays relentless

Reuters
MEXICO CITY

Mexico continued its perfect run in the World Cup with a 3-0 romp against Czechia on Wednesday, finishing its group-stage campaign with a flourish and killing off its tame opponent's hopes of making the knockouts.

In Monterrey, South Africa reached the knockout phase for the first time after Thapelo Maseko's second-half strike gave a 1-0 win against South Korea, which can still qualify as one of the best third-placed teams.

The co-host had already booked its spot in the last 32 as the Group A winner but kept its foot firmly on the throttle to complete a third straight victory that left Czechia bottom of the standings and out of the tournament.

The game looked to be drifting towards a stalemate until Mexico exploded in the second half. Mateo Chavez opened the scoring before Julian Quinones grabbed his second of the tournament and Alvaro Fidalgo dealt the final blow. Mexico's reward for a faultless qualifying performance will be a clash against a third-placed side from Group C, E, F, H or I in Mexico City on June 30.

In the other fixture, Maseko fired the ball into the bottom corner in the 63rd minute to do the job for SA, which will face Canada in Los Angeles on June 28.

The standings

GROUP A

	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points
Mexico (Q)	3	3	0	0	6	0	6	9
South Africa (Q)	3	1	1	1	2	3	-1	4
South Korea	3	1	0	2	2	3	-1	3
Czechia (E)	3	0	1	2	2	6	-4	1

Q: Qualified **E:** Eliminated Source: FIFA

Switzerland tops group; Bosnia goes through

Agencies
VANCOUVER

Ruben Vargas and Johan Manzambi scored to hand Switzerland a 2-1 victory over co-host Canada at the World Cup on Wednesday as both teams progressed to the round-of-32.

Promise David netted a late goal for Canada, which took second place in Group B behind the Swiss and earned a spot in the knockouts for the first time. In Seattle, Bosnia and Herzegovina advanced with a 3-1 triumph and eliminated Qatar from the global tournament.

Switzerland's Vargas (46th) took Manzambi's pass and beat a closing Maxime Crepeau to the corner of the net. Switzerland doubled its advantage when Manzambi (57th) caught Crepeau leaning left and ripped a powerful shot to the goalkeeper's right. But Canada pulled a goal back via David's (76th) volley on his first touch about a minute after coming on as a substitute.

In Seattle, Kerim Alajbegovic scored in the 29th minute to give Bosnia the lead. The 18-year-old Alajbegovic became the eighth-youngest scorer in WC history when he powered a shot past Qatar goalkeeper Mahmud Abunada from 20 yards away.

The standings

GROUP B

	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points
Switzerland (Q)	3	2	1	0	7	3	4	7
Canada (Q)	3	1	1	1	8	3	5	4
Bosnia & Herzegovina (Q)	3	1	1	1	5	6	-1	4
Qatar (E)	3	0	1	2	2	10	-8	1

Q: Qualified **E:** Eliminated Source: FIFA

Table and fixtures

As the teams head into their final group games, a look at how they are placed and who they meet

GROUP G	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points
Egypt	2	1	1	0	4	2	2	**4**
Iran	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	**2**
Belgium	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	**2**
New Zealand	2	0	1	1	3	5	-2	**1**

Saturday's matches: *Egypt vs. Iran and New Zealand vs. Belgium, both 8.30 a.m. IST*

GROUP H	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points
Spain	2	1	1	0	4	0	4	**4**
Uruguay	2	0	2	0	3	3	0	**2**
Cape Verde	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	**2**
Saudi Arabia	2	0	1	1	1	5	-4	**1**

Saturday's matches: *Cape Verde vs. Saudi Arabia and Uruguay vs. Spain, both 5.30 a.m. IST*

GROUP I	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points
France (Q)	2	2	0	0	6	1	5	**6**
Norway (Q)	2	2	0	0	7	3	4	**6**
Senegal	2	0	0	2	3	6	-3	**0**
Iraq	2	0	0	2	1	7	-6	**0**

Saturday's matches: *Norway vs. France and Senegal vs. Iraq, both 00.30 a.m. IST*

Q: Qualified

* The top two from each group and the eight best third-placed sides will advance to the round of 32

Technology has bridged the gap between teams

Ayon Sengupta
DALLAS

For nearly 90 minutes, Cape Verde frustrated Spain.

Spain, one of the tournament favourites, unleashed 27 shots and dominated possession, yet the scoreboard at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta read 0-0 at full-time. It was one of the early surprises of the 2026 FIFA World Cup and, in many ways, the perfect rebuttal to critics who feared the expanded 48-team tournament would produce a lot of one-sided group-stage matches.

Besides football, this World Cup has become a vast technology experiment. "This is the largest event on the globe that is so technologically powered," Asia Sheikh, Lenovo's Global CTO for Sports and Entertainment Technology Innovation, told *The Hindu*. "This is the first AI-native sporting event of its kind."

At the heart of that vision is Football AI Pro, a platform developed jointly by FIFA and Lenovo that gives all 48 participating nations access to advanced tactical analysis. "We are ensuring that innovation benefits every player, every team, and every fan everywhere in the world and of course benefits the greatest game of all, football," FIFA president Gianni Infantino said while introducing the initiative.

Welcome move: The technology's value was evident when the France-Iraq clash was delayed due to rain.

For instance, analysts from Cape Verde can for the first time access many of the tactical insights available to a team like Spain. "FIFA has brought the knowledge, the expertise, their analysts and their coaches, and we built this whole agentic AI layer on top of it," Sheikh said. "Today, 48 teams have the same data. All coaches can see the same thing that is happening."

Away from the pitch, Lenovo's Intelligent Command Centre in Miami, which Sheikh describes as the World Cup's "centre nervous system", connects weather, transport, venue and security systems across the tournament. Its value became evident when thunderstorms delayed France's group-stage match against Iraq in Philadelphia by almost two hours and fans were kept updated through the official FIFA app.

"They don't have to call probably 30 teams and say, 'here is your next action item'," Sheikh said. "The command centre automatically does all the next steps for them. Every venue is connected, every traffic system is connected, every weather system is connected."

Perhaps the most visible use of AI has come in officiating, where detailed player avatars are used to explain offside decisions.

"Fans will still curse," Sheikh said with a laugh. "But we wanted to bring more transparency. When the teams arrived, we scanned them (all 1,248 players). Before, it used to be some cartoon character. You don't know whether it's Messi or Ronaldo. Now we are building the 3D avatar which replicates the skin tones and physical features. The technology gives you a clear picture of where the player was and how the call was made. But, of course, the referee is the one who makes the final decision."

While the stars still decide the fate of the matches, artificial intelligence and technology are increasingly shaping everything around them.

Stat attack

1 Morocco recorded its first comeback win in World Cup history (in 13 games)

1 South Africa reached the knockout stages of the football extravaganza for the first time in four appearances

2 Cunha became the first Brazilian since Coutinho (2018) to find the back of the net in his first two World Cup starts

2 Guimaraes registered multiple assists by a Brazilian in a World Cup game for the first time since Kaka (2 vs. Ivory Coast, 2010)

4 Neymar became the fourth Brazilian to feature in four World Cups (after Djalma Santos, Cafu, and Pele)

4 Switzerland qualified for the knockout stages for the fourth consecutive time. France is the only other European nation to do so

4 Manzambi's three goals and one assist in a World Cup edition made him the third under-21 player this century with four or more goal contributions after Mbappe (4 in 2018) and Thomas Muller (8 in 2010)

5 Vinicius became the fifth Brazilian to find the target in each of the three group stage games in an edition, joining Jairzinho (1970), Romario (1994), Ronaldo and Rivaldo (both in 2002). Incidentally, Brazil won the World Cup all those years

7 Ochoa made history, becoming the seventh player aged 40 or more to play in the 2026 tournament. This is the same number of players aged 40 or more to make an appearance at the marquee event in all the editions previously

9 Brazil's victories by a margin of at least three goals, the most among all nations in the 21st century in the quadrennial showpiece

17y 253d Mora earned the distinction of being Mexico's youngest starter at the World Cup, and the youngest to start in the tournament since Femi Opabunmi (17y 101d, Nigeria vs. England, 2002)

20y 214d Yassine became the youngest Moroccan to score in the tournament

45m 39s Switzerland scored the earliest second half goal at the World Cup since Daniel Agger's own goal in 2010 (45:32, Denmark vs. Netherlands)

COMPILED BY ANIRUDH VELAMURI

India puts it across Bangladesh, keeps hopes alive

Shafali scores a half-century; the middle-order falters before Jemimah and Harmanpreet take the Women in Blue across the line; spinners Radha, Shree Charani help restrict the opposition

T20 WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MANCHESTER

They dropped catches, but not points. The Women in Blue may have had another forgettable day when it came to fielding, but they scored a badly-needed victory at Old Trafford on a sweltering Thursday afternoon here.

The five-wicket win against Bangladesh, with 3.1 overs to spare, has kept their hopes alive in the Women's T20 World Cup.

A wobble

After restricting their eastern neighbour to 136 for eight, they had looked like cruising home sooner though. But there was a bit of a wobble in the middle-order again, after a superb fifty from Shafali Verma.

With India's score at 98 for four – from 94 for two – the Bangladesh women may have sensed an opportunity for a big upset, but Jemimah Rodrigues (26, 15b, 3x4, 1x6) and captain Harmanpreet Kaur (13 n.o., 14b) made sure that India would cross the line, though not as fast as they would have wanted to.

The way Shafali, who bowled India's first over yet again, came up with confident strokes, it was clear that the team was determined to improve its Net Run Rate (NRR), which could come into play later. She put on 31 for the first wicket with Smriti Mandhana, who played straight to Rabeya Khan at covers off Marufa Akter.

Shafali was cross with herself and even hit her helmet with her gloved hand after she was stumped off Nahida Akter.

Yastika Bhatia was shaping up well until she miscued and was caught at covers off Ritu Moni.

India, nevertheless, got home comfortably enough in the end.

With Australia virtually assured of a place in the semifinals from Group A, it was imperative that the Indians left the disappointing defeat to South Africa behind on this very ground three days ago. They now have six points, two behind the formidable Aussies.

The two teams will come face to face at Lord's at the weekend. South Africa is better placed than India when it comes to the race for a spot in the last four as it has easier opponents in its last two matches.

Earlier, the Indians restricted Bangladesh to a modest score despite putting down catches, as they continued from where they left off in the South Africa match. And the ball continued to chase Radha Yadav, who had dropped two in that game.

She put down opener Juairiya Ferdous off the bowling of Renuka Singh, who was playing her first match of the edition. And the fact is Radha is one of the best fielders in the game.

Juairiya went on to be the top-scorer for Bangladesh with 33 (31b, 5x4).

Skipper Nigar Sultana (32, 27b, 4x4) and Sobhana Mostary (22) were the only others who lasted for a while, but the innings never really took off.

Radha made up for her dropped catch with three wickets.

The other left-arm spinner, Shree Charani, did what was expected of her. Yet another impressive spell gave her two wickets. She now has 12 wickets, more than anybody else at this World Cup.

SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH
Dilara Akter c Shree Charani b Renuka 4 *(8b)*, Juairiya Ferdous c & b Nandani 33 *(31b, 5x4)*, Sobhana Mostary c Deepti b Radha 22 *(26b, 2x4)*, Nigar Sultana st. Richa b Radha 32 *(27b, 4x4)*, Sharmin Akhter retd. out 10 *(12b)*, Shorna Akter c Renuka b Shree Charani 13 *(10b, 2x4)*, Ritu Moni b Radha 8 *(4b, 1x4)*, Rabeya Khan (not out) 2 *(2b)*, Nahida Akter c Jemimah b Shree Charani 0 *(2b)*, Marufa Akter (not out) 2 *(1b)*; Extras (nb-3, w-7): 10; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 136.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-8 (Dilara, 1.6 overs), 2-59 (Juairiya, 8.5), 3-79 (Sobhana, 12.5), 4-106 (Nigar, 16.1), 5-120 (Sharmin, 17.6), 6-128 (Ritu, 18.4), 7-134 (Shorna, 19.3), 8-134 (Nahida, 19.5).

INDIA BOWLING
Shafali 2-0-11-0, Renuka 3-0-21-1, Shree Charani 4-0-21-2, Nandani 3-0-32-1, Deepti 4-0-23-0, Radha 4-0-28-3.

INDIA
Smriti Mandhana c Rabeya b Marufa 8 (6b, 1x4), Shafali Verma st. Nigar b Nahida 53 (34b, 8x4, 1x6), Yastika Bhatia c Rabeya b Ritu 23 (18b, 3x4), Richa Ghosh lbw b Rabeya 10 (12b, 2x4), Jemimah Rodrigues c Marufa b Ritu 26 (15b, 3x4, 1x6), Harmanpreet Kaur (not out) 13 (14b, 1x4), Deepti Sharma (not out) 5 (2b, 1x4); Extras (w-1): 1; Total (for five wkts. in 16.5 overs): 139.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-31 (Smriti, 2.6), 2-76 (Shafali, 8.4), 3-94 (Yastika, 11.1), 4-98 (Richa, 12.2), 5-128 (Jemimah, 15.4).

BANGLADESH BOWLING
Marufa 3-0-28-1, Sanjida 3-0-39-0, Ritu 4-0-29-2, Rabeya 3-0-19-1, Nahida 3.5-0-24-1.

Toss: Bangladesh; **PoM:** Shafali.
India won by five wickets with 19 balls to spare.
India's next match: June 28 vs. Australia, Lord's, 7 p.m. IST.

Today's match

Sri Lanka vs. Scotland

Manchester, 11 p.m. IST

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 3

Sri Lanka	Scotland
3	0

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

In attack mode: Shafali's 34-ball 53 put the team on the road to victory. GETTY IMAGES

Many tend to forget Greig was a fine cricketer too, says sister Sally Ann

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MANCHESTER

Girls did not play cricket in South Africa those days.

But, Sally Ann did. In the backyard of her home in the South African town of Queenstown, she played with both her brothers Tony and Ian, both of whom went on to play Test cricket for England.

Tony Greig also went on to attain much fame as a commentator. He was one of those voices and faces that brought live cricket from the sunny Australian grounds to India, where the sun hadn't been up yet.

Popular commentator

Greig was part of the great Channel 9 commentary team that included the likes of Richie Benaud, Ian and Greg Chappell and Bill Lawry. "I did not quite imagine my brother Tony would go on to become such a popular commentator, though he always loved to talk cricket," Sally Ann tells *The Hindu*. "Many people now tend to forget that he was a fine cricketer as well; they know only him as a commentator."

Super siblings: Sally Ann says Greig loved India. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sally Ann says her brother loved India.

"In Tony's obituary, BBC radio commentator Christopher Martin-Jenkins had written that his finest moment was in India at the Eden Gardens (where he played a captain's innings to lead England to victory in the 1977 Test)," she says. "And that was the last article Martin-Jenkins wrote before he died."

Sally Ann, whose husband is First Class cricketer and former MCC president Phillip Hodson, has fond memories of watching Greig playing Test cricket at Lord's.

"My parents had given me a trip as a present for my 21st birthday," she says. "And I came over, yeah. And I was there, I helped because his wife was pregnant, with their second baby. He was born on the 20th of June. And Tony was made captain just after that."

Sally Ann had hit headlines in this country during Covid. She was called the 'walking miracle', after being given little chance for survival by the doctors. "I thought I had a fever after returning from South Africa and went to Lord's for a dinner, where Kumar Sangakkara and other Sri Lankans were there," she recalls.

"I was given some penicillin and the next thing I knew that I was in an ambulance. And they put me into an induced coma for six weeks. I can't remember that."

She attributes it to the longevity of her mother. "I have so many things to do," she says. "I have always wanted to watch cricket at the Eden Gardens".

The 'Dil'scoop on the Sri Lankan's second innings as mentor, coach and father

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

Only a few have left a mark on cricket quite like Tillakaratne Dilshan.

A decade on from his international retirement, the former Sri Lanka all-rounder is donning a different hat.

The 49-year-old is in Hyderabad as mentor of TG20 franchise Khammam Aces in the inaugural edition, guiding a new generation through the lessons of a 17-year international career.

"I got a call from the ownership group asking me to help the youngsters, and I took it up immediately," Dilshan told *The Hindu*.

"I tell the players to use me to the maximum. 'Take my experience, take what I can teach you, that's why I'm in this role'."

He has spent about 10 days with the Aces squad, and unsurprisingly, the famous 'Dilscoop' – the audacious stroke that became synonymous with his name – was the icebreaker.

New avatar: Dilshan is serving as mentor of TG20 franchise Khammam Aces. NAGARA GOPAL

"It came up in the first meeting! The entire team wanted to learn how to play [that shot]. I spoke to them about how to pull it off, when I used it, and how I employed it in situations to put the pressure back on the bowlers," he added.

Dilshan lauded the growing ambition of local leagues in India, which bring national players, experienced domestic regulars, and aspiring district talent under one roof.

"There is talent that is at the level of the IPL in these types of tournaments. Hopefully, five or six players get selected from here, too. So many budding players don't get to play in big leagues.

"We had a few dropped catches in the first game because the boys are not used to playing under lights. We've worked on that.

"The young opener in our team (Wafi Kachchhi) batted well in the first game, scored 60-odd but threw his wicket away.

"We spoke about what he could have done in that situation and how he could have converted it into a bigger score. He might get us a few centuries before the end of the tournament."

Dilshan's coaching journey began much closer to home – with his daughter, Limansa Thilakarathne, who plays for Sri Lanka's u-19 side, and son Dihela Dinhath Tillakaratne, who competes at the age-group level in Melbourne.

"I'm really happy with Limmy. Even if she doesn't perform well, she will come back and say, 'Taati (short for Thaaththaa, colloquial Sinhala word for father), we'll go to the nets at night'."

The 18-year-old is currently with the SL u-19 side playing a white-ball series against India in Chennai. Dilshan hopes to be in the stands soon, cheering rather than being cheered.

For a man who spent a lifetime creating memories on the field, there may be no greater satisfaction than watching his daughter create her own.

Latham and Conway make merry for NZ

Agence France-Presse
NOTTINGHAM

New Zealand's Tom Latham and Devon Conway broke a record that had stood for nearly a hundred years before England skipper Ben Stokes marked his return to international duty by sparking a late fightback on the first day of the third Test at Trent Bridge.

The Black Caps were still well-placed on 361 for four at stumps, with the three-match series all square at 1-1. But they had been 317 for no loss while New Zealand captain Latham, capitalising on winning a good toss in sweltering heat, made 151 and fellow southpaw Conway 157 before they were both dismissed in the final session.

The scores: New Zealand 361/4 in 84.1 overs (Latham 151, Conway 157) vs England. **Toss:** NZ.

India grapples with Sooryavanshi inclusion as the Shreyas era begins

INDIA IN IRELAND

Press Trust of India
BELFAST

Accommodating teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi in the playing XI will be the toughest riddle for the team management when India steps into a new T20 era under Shreyas Iyer in the first of a two-match series against Ireland here on Friday.

There is heightened interest surrounding Sooryavanshi's possible international debut after the 15-year-old's stunning run in the IPL and a marauding 29-ball 94 for India-A against Sri Lanka-A in a tri-series one-day final in Dambulla.

Currently, India's top three includes Sanju Samson, Abhishek Sharma and Ishan Kishan. And their overall and recent T20 records are not easy to ignore. If the management wants to include Sooryavanshi, an opener, one of Samson or Abhishek will have to move down the order or sit out.

Will he make it? Sooryavanshi has been knocking on the doors of the national team for some time now. PTI

So, head coach Gautam Gambhir and Shreyas will have to think as to whether to hand a debut to Sooryavanshi or keep the winning combination intact for the time being. At a personal level, Shreyas will be eager to start his full-time captaincy stint with a series win and underline his leadership abilities.

On the bowling front, India has a second-string line-up, but this series and the following one against England offer them a fine chance to prove their mettle.

Ireland, on the other hand, are missing several frontline players like Josh Little, Mark Adair, Paul Stirling and Curtis Campher owing to injuries.

The teams (from):

India: Shreyas Iyer (Capt.), Tilak Varma (Vice-capt.), Ravi Bishnoi, Abhishek Sharma, Suryansh Shedge, Prasidh Krishna, Sanju Samson (wk), Axar Patel, Harshit Rana, Ishan Kishan (wk), Washington Sundar, Arshdeep Singh, Shivam Dube, Prince Yadav, and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi.

Ireland: Lorcan Tucker (Capt.), Ross Adair, Ben Calitz, Gareth Delany, George Dockrell, Stephen Doheny, Matthew Humphreys, Gavin Hoey, Matthew Hollard, Liam McCarthy, Jai Moondra, Harry Tector, Tim Tector, and Reuben Wilson.

(Match starts at 6 p.m. IST.).

Dockrell excited to test himself against 'the best'

S. Shrivathsan

The Ireland men's team is ushering in a new era in T20 cricket.

Lorcan Tucker has taken over the captaincy from veteran Paul Stirling, and the team is in the process of creating a "new identity". But Ireland could be put to the sword when it hosts reigning World T20 champion India for a two-match series from Friday.

All-rounder George Dockrell felt that the tough assignment would provide Ireland a clear idea of where it stands in the current landscape.

"We probably do not play as much cricket as we would like. However, when we get the opportunity, we want to make the absolute best of it... whether it is testing ourselves against the best in the world or having new plans and approaches," Dockrell said during a select media virtual interaction on Thursday.

Dockrell. FILE PHOTO

"That is what we want as players; we want to be put under pressure. These matches will give us great feedback on where we are at and where we need to work on. Obviously, we are keen to get some wins as well."

Dockrell, one of the more experienced campaigners in the side, is thrilled to watch how the latest chapter in the Ireland T20 story unfolds.

"It is always exciting when we play India; playing it in Ireland is quite special for us. We have some new faces; there is a bit of a new identity to the team. We are excited to test ourselves at the start of the cycle," he added.

The 33-year-old backed new skipper Tucker to come good. "He has been fantastic since he took over the reins. We have already had a taste of his style. He is very clear, he is very calm, and he is a very good thinker."

Tucker will already have his thinking cap on!

(Watch India-Ireland first T20I live on Sony Sports Ten 1 & 5 SD & HD, and Sony LIV).

Sindhushree outjumps Baranica for pole vault gold and Asiad ticket

The unheralded Karnataka girl trained with a borrowed pole for the two weeks; also booking their slots for the continental showpiece are Animesh (men's 200m), Harita and Unnathi (women's 200m), and Gowthami (women's 800m)

ATHLETICS

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

The unheralded Sindhushree G. wrote her name in the record books with a shock win over Baranica Elangovan in the women's pole vault and qualified for the Asian Games on the second day of the National inter-State athletics meet at the Kalinga Stadium here on Thursday.

The 25-year-old short statured Karnataka girl – who trained for two weeks with a borrowed pole from a fellow male athlete, who had purchased the equipment meant for women by mistake – relied on her endurance to thrive despite the humid conditions. She achieved the National mark of 4.25m ahead of Baranica, who couldn't improve upon her previous mark of 4.23m.

"I do 30 jumps in training. I had enough endurance," said Sindhushree, whose previous best was 4.00m in the Indian Athletics Series in Delhi in May.

Proudly holding a photo of her late father, R. Ganesh, who backed her to pursue athletics before his death in 2022, Sindhushree said, "I dedicate this to my father, who had dreamt of seeing me in India colours."

Gowthami Jayaraman timed 2:04.17 to upset Pooja Ola and secure the women's 800m crown. Animesh Kujur (20.87) made the cut for the continental show-piece in men's 200m heats before lowering it to 20.74 to win the final.

Harita Bhadra (23.55) and Unnathi Bollanda (23.65) also qualified in the women's 200m heats before taking the top two places in the final, clocking 23.14 and 23.40 respectively.

Tejas Shirse (13.43) set a new meet record in men's 110m hurdles. He earned an Asiad berth and bettered his previous meet record (13.54).

Nagoya calling: (clockwise) Sindhushree, Animesh, Harita and Gowthami will hope to carry on their good form into the quadrennial event and do India proud. BISWARANJAN ROUT

The results (finals): Men: 200m (Asiad Q mark 20.88): 1. Animesh Kujur (Odi) 20.74, 2. Dondapati M. Jayaram (Odi) 20.97, 3. Jishnu Prasad P.K. (Ker) 21.18; **800m (Asiad Q mark 1:48.80):** 1. Mohammed Afsal P. (Ker) 1:48.57, 2. Krishan Kumar (Har) 1:48.82, 3. Prathamesh Deore (Mah) 1:48.89; **Discus (Asiad Q mark 60.13m):** 1. Kirpal Singh (Chd) 57.37m, 2. Nirbhay Singh (Har) 55.26m, 3. Arjun (Del) 54.90m; **Decathlon (Asiad Q mark 7250):** 1. Thowfeeq N. (Ker) 7276, 2. Kushal Mohite (Mah) 7251, 3. Jashbir Nayak (Odi) 7131; **Half-marathon race walk (Asiad Q mark 1:25:37):** 1. Servin Sebastian (TN) 1:31:49, 2. Sachin Bohra (Utk) 1:32:10, 3. Ningthoukongja (Man) 1:32:24.

Women: 200m (Asiad Q mark 23.70): 1. Harita Bhadra (Mah) 23.14, 2. Unnathi Bollanda (Kar) 23.40, 3. Prakruthi Roopa Rao (Kar) 23.58; **800m (Asiad Q mark 2:05.21):** 1. Gowthami Jayaraman (TN) 2:04.17, 2. Pooja Ola (Har) 2:04..37, 3. Lili Das (WB) 2:04.59; **Shot put (Asiad Q mark 16.25m):** 1. Manpreet Kaur (Har) 17.75m, Krishna Jayasankar (TN) 16.96m, 3. Srishti Vig (Del) 16.96m;

Pole vault (Asiad Q mark 4.10m): 1. Sindhushree G. (Kar) 4.25m (NR, Old 4.23m, Baranica Elangovan, 2026), 2. Baranica Elangovan (TN) 4.20m, 3. Nitika Akare (MP) 4.10m.

Sai Sudharsan. X@BCCI

Sai Sudharsan ton powers India-A

Press Trust of India
GALLE

A fluent century from opener B. Sai Sudharsan and unbeaten fifties by skipper Dhruv Jurel and Shaik Rasheed put India-A firmly in control at 333 for four on the opening day of the unofficial Test series against Sri Lanka-A on Thursday.

Electing to bat, India-A dominated, with Sai Sudharsan laying the foundation with a classy 132 before skipper Jurel (68 batting) and Rasheed (53 batting) continued the good work with a solid partnership.

The scores: India-A 333/4 in 86 overs (Sai Sudharsan 132, Jurel 68 batting, Rasheed 53 batting) vs Sri Lanka-A. **Toss:** India-A.

LIVE TELECAST

FIFA World Cup: Unite8 Sports 1, 2 & Z5 App, 7.30 a.m. 12.30 & 5.30 a.m. (Saturday)

England vs New Zealand: 3rd Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 3.30 p.m.

Ireland vs India: 1st T20I, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 6 p.m.

West Indies vs Sri Lanka: 1st Test, day 2, FanCode, 7.30 p.m.

Women's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 11 p.m.

Jyoti attributes her success to resilience

BOXING

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

Jyoti. INSTAGRAM/JYOTIGULIABOXER

Former World under-17 champion Jyoti Gulia is delighted that her resilience has helped her win a gold medal in the China leg of the World Cup recently.

Jyoti, who got her first opportunity to compete in an international event after two years, was hungry for success.

"After I lost in the Commonwealth Games trials, I dropped down from 51kg to 48kg for the first time. I had just 20-25 days to cut down three kg. The hunger was there and I was keen to take gold whenever I got an opportunity," Jyoti, the lone gold medallist in Guiyang City, told *The Hindu*.

"I cut down on my diet. I quit everything, ate only boiled food. I stopped having dinner, and had just a protein drink or fruits. My strength also reduced. Still, I managed to win gold."

Jyoti, coming from a batch of tough girls who secured five gold medals for India in the 2017 World under-17 championships, recalled her World Cup bouts.

"Since I was competing in 48kg for the first time, I didn't get any seeding. My first bout was against an Asian silver medallist (Mongolia's Nomundari Enkh Amgalan). In the semifinal, I faced an Olympian (Mexico's Fatima Herrera) and in the final I met someone (Uzbekistan's Farzona Fozilova) who had won gold in the first World Cup in Brazil two months ago. Both semifinal and final were closely fought."

Jyoti thanked Boxing Federation of India (BFI) president Ajay Singh for his support. "The Sports Authority of India (SAI) had not given sanction for 48kg and 75kg, but Ajay Sir sponsored my travel," said Jyoti, who has now buried the hatchet with the BFI.

While acknowledging that 51kg is the most competitive weight class in India, Jyoti, with her newfound confidence, is keen to get selected for the Worlds next year.

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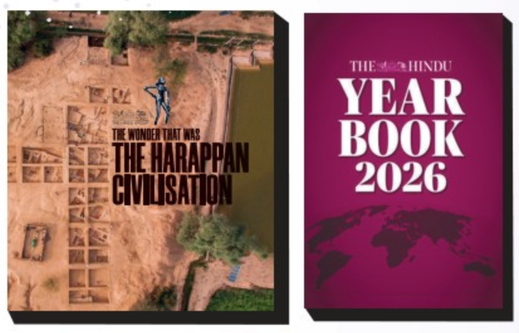

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Shreyas, Karun carry Coastal Kings to victory over Mysore Warriors

The Mangaluru based side was struggling at 42 for three by the fifth over chasing a target of 191 before the experienced duo bailed their side out

MAHARAJA TROPHY

Sports Bureau
MYSURU

Karun Nair and Shreyas Gopal steered Coastal Kings Mangaluru to a six-wicket victory overs Mysore Warriors in the DACSS Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 tournament here on Thursday.

Coastal Kings, who lost to Bangalore Blasters on Wednesday, made a worthy comeback. Karun and Shreyas took the lead in a successful chase of a 192-run target with a decisive 60-ball 123-run partnership for the fourth wicket.

The experienced duo turned the tables after Coastal Kings was reduced to 42 for three by the fifth over.

Karun, the top pick at ₹18 lakh in this year's auction, was at his flamboyant best making a 32-ball 61.

An undeterred Shreyas finished with an unbeaten 84 (43b, 9x4, 3x6). He had earlier claimed two wickets for 25 runs.

Put into bat, Warriors opener L.R. Chethan made an attacking 35-ball 67 to take his team to 191 for nine. Pacer V. Koushik was the pick of the Coastal Kings bowling attack with a three wicket haul.

Coastal Kings' notched up a second victory in four matches, while Warriors suffered a third loss in four matches.

Later in the second match of the day, Gulbarga Mystics sailed to a seven-wicket victory over Hubli Tigers. Chasing 119, Mystics overhauled the target with more than six overs remaining.

The scores: Mysore Warriors 191/9 in 20 overs (L.R. Chethan 67) lost to Coastal Kings Mangaluru 195/4 in 17.overs (Karun Nair 61, Shreyas Gopal 84 n.o.).

Hubli Tigers 119/9 in 20 overs lost to Gulbarga Mystics 120/3 in 13.2 overs (Macneil Noronha 42 n.o.).

Entertaining knock: Shreyas smacked nine boundaries and three maximums for Coastal Kings. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sim Racing c'ship to help unearth F1 talent in India

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Organisers feel the process would help budding talents make a smooth transition.

Even as there is a growing chatter around Formula One's potential return to India in the near future, the country's representation in the sport has been sparse. So far, there have been only two drivers who have managed to reach the glamorous world of F1, and there hasn't been one on the grid since 2012.

Now, in a bid to identify potential future racing drivers, the Mumbai Falcons Racing Team is seeking to create a pathway to unearth talent, albeit in an unconventional way.

One of the biggest problems is that the sport is the preserve of the rich, and the cost of trying to forge a career, even at the lowest levels, is prohibitive.

To address that, Mumbai Falcons – which competes in various championships in the UAE and the Middle East and has run current F1 drivers like Andrea Kimi Antonelli and Arvid Linblad – will host a nationwide Sim Racing championship in association with F1 to help some of the top performers transition to real-world racing.

"The idea is basically to find the next F1 driver. That's the ultimate goal. But when we got into the psyche kids, we found out it's too expensive and dangerous. That's when we thought of doing this: virtual-to-reality? And then, you never know, you can just find one star out of them and who can start coming to our academy in Dubai and move up the rungs from karting to F4, F3 and so on," said Ameet Gadhoke, owner of Mumbai Falcons.

Participants will race from home on their console of preference at the first stage of screening. The second stage will be held in 10 cities as a zonal event, with an expected participation of nearly 10,000 across two sections: juniors (under-14) and seniors (over 14), all using the same equipment.

From there, 100 will be shortlisted from each zone and head to Mumbai for the next round, where they will progress through knockout rounds to identify the top 60 sim racers. The 60 will then vie for the big prize in the final.

Apart from this, Ameet also plans to identify promising talent in the under-14 section, where the top 1000 kids in the junior section will receive a training programme in karting with a four-stroke engine to select the top 100.

"These 100 kids will go for a full-fledged two-week training with a two-stroke engine kart, and the top 36 will qualify for a karting championship. The top-ten drivers will then get subsidised training in karting and racing in the UAE."

"Once people and parents understand that this is just not a gaming thing, but it's a future path, then we expect more response, and we might find our next star," Ameet expressed confidence.

BCCI Ombudsman rules KSCA secretary can't continue in office

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

The BCCI Ombudsman has ruled that Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) secretary Santosh Menon is not entitled to continue in office and has declared the post vacant.

The decision was taken by BCCI Ombudsman Justice Arun Mishra (Retd.) on a complaint filed by KSCA institutional member Dolphin Cricketers. The Ombudsman held that Menon had completed the maximum permissible nine-year tenure under the rules.

The complainant argued that Menon's tenure had exceeded nine years when his stints as a KSCA Managing Committee member (December 2013 to December 2019) and as KSCA secretary (December 2019 to November 2022) were taken into account.

Santosh Menon. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

The complainant pointed out that when Menon was elected KSCA secretary on December 7, 2025, he had only nine days remaining before completing the nine-year limit. The Ombudsman accepted the complainant's argument that the nine-year tenure limit had to be calculated cumulatively, combining Menon's time as a Managing Committee member and as an office-bearer.

The order stated that the period served as secretary cannot be excluded from the nine-year period.

"The office-bearer is also a member of the Managing Committee or Apex Council. As such, it is apparent that his tenure has to be cumulated for holding the post of Managing Committee as 'office bearer' or as 'Managing Committee member', otherwise the entire purpose of the nine-year cap each for BCCI and State association would stand diluted," the order said.

The KSCA said it had taken note of the BCCI Ombudsman's order and was examining it in detail.

"Appropriate legal advice is being sought to evaluate all remedies and options available under law," a KSCA statement read.

The KSCA also referred to an earlier order passed by its Ombudsman, Justice (Retd.) A.S. Bopanna, on February 5, 2026, which it said was binding on all members under the KSCA bye-laws.

The association said the BCCI Ombudsman had taken a contrary view and that the legal implications of the two orders were being examined.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Bhuvan and Prathyush star for Vultures CC

N. Bhuvan Gowda top-scored with an unbeaten 157 and G. Prathyush Shetty scalped five for 13) as Vultures CC thrashed Whirlwind Cricketers by 278 runs in the KSCA U-19 inter-club tournament.

The scores: Vultures 336/1 in 50 overs (Atharv Malviya 81, N. Bhuvan Gowda 157 n.o., A. Eashan 66 n.o.) bt Whirlwind Cricketers 58 in 18.3 overs (G. Prathyush Shetty 5/13).

South End SC 21 in 15.3 overs (Krishna 5/4, Arush Jain 5/14) lost to Bangalore Sports Club 24 for no loss in 2.3 overs.

Caravan Cricketers 237 in 50 overs (R. Gaurav Reddy 40, V. Navneeth Raj 63) bt Herons 208 in 43.3 overs (E. Adyant 57, K. Diganth 48 n.o.).

FUCC (1) 225 in 47.2 overs (Rishikesh Sharma 48, Dhruv Modhe 73, Skanda 4/29) bt The Bangalore Cricketers 187/9 in 43.2 overs (M.D. Dharsh 57 n.o., K.C. Veeresh 5/24).

Wilson Garden 142 in 34 overs (Sujaybhushan Patil 44 n.o.) lost to Rajajinagar Cricketers 146/2 in 14.2 overs (S. Abhiraj 71 n.o.).

Bharath 230 in 49.4 overs (Vedant Kumar 41, Aadrith 73, Shreyas Subramanya 40, M.A. Chirag Gowda 4/28) bt Freelancers 185 in 29.3 overs (K.A. Aayush 105, Samarth Patil 4/35).

FUCC (2) 188 in 47.2 overs (S. Keerthan Shenoy 4/32) lost to Jayanagar United Cricketers 189/5 in 31 overs (S. Shivaprasad 67, Ekansh Roul 40).

Blue Diamond Cricketers 133 in 35 overs (R.C. Tanish Yadav 51, Purushotham Raghu 4/25) lost to Social Cricketers 135/1 in 21.3 overs (T. Amruthraj 50, H. Rithvik 76 n.o.).

RVCE Gymkhana 169 in 49 overs (Sunny Kanchi 4/35) bt Young Lions Club 36 in 21.5 overs (S. Adhithyan 5/15).

Palar SC, Kolar 270 in 47.5 overs (R. Rathin Sanjay 69) bt Sapphire 121 in 25.3 overs (S. Pratham Raj 6/38).

City Gymkhana 346/5 in 50 overs (P.M. Vismai 79, Siddhanth Smaran 110, Arsh Arora 49, C. Barath 77) bt Wadiyar 185 in 43.5 overs (Harikrishna Sivakumar 46, Badrinath 66).

Messi and Mbappe — an era-defining saga

A spectacle: The race between Messi and Mbappe for the coveted top spot, which Klose had occupied for a dozen years, has been enthralling. AFP

FOOTBALL

R.K. Arjun

Lionel Messi sits atop the World Cup goalscoring throne, but with Kylian Mbappe sprinting up the steps, the crown has never looked less secure.

The list of top World Cup goal scorers is a timeline of football. From black and white grainy broadcasts to high definition, numbers have continuously raised year after year.

Guillermo Stabile's eight goals in the inaugural World Cup (1930) and Just Fontaine's record of 13 goals in a single edition (1958), look tiny in retrospect, while their single tournament scoring records look like cheat codes.

One-off goal scoring records have long since passed and long-term dominance has taken their place. In 1970, Gerd Müller's goal scoring records became a defenders' nightmare.

In 1998, Ronaldo Nazario made his own mark after scoring goals in three consecutive World Cups (1998, 2002 ,2006).

Klose also had a remarkable record in the marquee event, his goal tally of 16 remained the mark to beat for over a decade.

Messi's journey has been streaked with narrative.

Years of build-up, some criticism, some heartbreak, and a plot twist to end all plot twists with the 2022 World Cup, combined with stunning start to his 2026 campaign, have transformed the narrative of his international career from "underwhelming" to "unprecedented". Mbappe has taken goal scoring to a new level.

His 16 goals have come at a rate which has left even the greatest feeling the pressure of competition.

Messi's first act was a 15 year epic, battling Ronaldo for European glory; his second, unfolding in the twilight of his career, is a World Cup saga with Mbappe that feels every bit as era-defining.

Haaland — the heartbeat that inspires Norway's dream

K.B. Sri Krish

Alf-Inge Haaland grew up playing football with passion, across many leagues to storm his way into the Norway National team. Norway had not been seen at the quadrennial show-piece since 1998.

Twenty-eight years of hurt, near-misses, and qualification heartbreak followed. Then came Erling Haaland, and everything changed.

Scoring four goals from eight shots, Haaland became only the second player in the past 50 years to find the net twice in each of his first two World Cup games, Harry Kane being the other, back in 2018. Norway is currently unbeaten in the group stage, with two wins from two, and a place in the knockout stage secured.

Make some noise: Haaland has left his imprint on the biggest stage in style. AP PHOTO/STEVE LUCIANO

Ruthless

Against Senegal, Haaland struck in the 48th minute off a quick counter-attack, slotting a left-footed shot into the upper right-hand corner, before volleying a cross with his weaker right foot past the goalkeeper moments later.

Clinical. Ruthless. Inevitable. Led by Haaland, Norway recorded back-to-back wins at the marquee event for the first time.

He currently sits second in the Golden Boot race, level with Kylian Mbappe on four and one behind Lionel Messi.

As the knockout stage approaches, the 25-year-old stands at the heart of Norway's dream.

If the 6'5" player maintains his extraordinary scoring rate, the 2026 edition may ultimately be remembered as the tournament where football's most feared striker conquered the biggest stage.

Sinner optimistic about Wimbledon title defence

TENNIS

Associated Press
LONDON

Top-ranked Jannik Sinner is feeling optimistic about his Wimbledon title defence after sweating through an exhibition match in a heat wave on Wednesday and confirming he underwent testing following his physical meltdown at the French Open.

The Italian star hasn't entered any tour-level events in the build-up to the grass-court Grand Slam, which starts on Monday, so his 6-3, 6-3 victory over Cam Norrie in sweltering west London will have to suffice.

"It was very warm, but physically I felt good," Sinner told reporters.

The appearance at the Giorgio Armani Tennis Classic came just under a month after the Italian star struggled with dizziness in a stunning second-round loss at the French Open.

"We did some testing. We tried to understand what happened," he said. "We came to a conclusion which is very good."

Wednesday's match went ahead with southern England under a " red warning " for extreme heat issued by Britain's national weather service.

"As Cam said, a very hot day," Sinner said in an on-court interview. "Exhibition matches, they are good because we try out a couple of things and hopefully be as good as we can then for the next week."

Earlier on Wednesday at the All England Club, Sinner wore a cooling vest at practice. During the match against Norrie, he didn't use ice packs like in the past.

Fighting fit: Sinner says he is ready for the grass-court Major after the Roland-Garros meltdown. AFP

The early afternoon temperature in Fulham, where the grass-court event was held, was 33 degrees Celsius with a slight breeze.

The temperature at Wimbledon on Monday is expected to be a much more manageable 24 degrees Celsius.

In Paris, he was ahead by two sets and 5-1 in the third before losing to Juan Manuel Cerundolo 3-6, 2-6, 7-5, 6-1, 6-1. The temperature on Court Philippe-Chatrier rose to 32 degrees Celsius during the match, and Sinner was clearly having a tough time cooling himself down as he reached for multiple ice bags.

Sinner, who has a history of problems with heat and cramps, didn't blame the heat entirely after the loss. "I think many things together caused this problem. I just need my time now to process what went wrong here," he said at the time.

At the grass-court major a year ago, Sinner beat Carlos Alcaraz 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 in the final for his first Wimbledon title. Alcaraz will miss this year's tournament because of a wrist injury.

The UK's weather service said the region could see "a two to three-day period where maximum temperatures in the shade exceed 37 Celsius, perhaps rising to 38 to 40 Celsius in some places. The heat will be accompanied by high humidity, exacerbating the potential for discomfort and health impacts, with very warm and humid night times also reducing the ability for people to recover overnight."

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